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4 hospitalized in 2-vehicle crash in Puerto Rico. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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USS *Rafael Peralta* makes Saipan port call in time for LibDay festivities

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The USS *Rafael Peralta*, captained by CDR Stephen D. Szachta Jr., has made its second port call on Saipan in the last month specifically to take part in today's 78th Annual Liberation Day festivities.

See USS on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
USS *Rafael Peralta* crew pose for a photo in front of the vessel yesterday after pulling into the Port of Saipan in time for today's Liberation Day festivities.

'Cost of living on Rota is a nightmare'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Stakeholder: RT&T exorbitant rates cause prices for goods on Rota to skyrocket**

A Rota stakeholder has written a letter addressed to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios pleading for the administration to champion the termination of Rota Terminal and Transfer's contract as Rota's sole stevedoring operator stating that the cost of living on Rota has skyrocketed due to exorbitant rates charged by RT&T.

See COST on Page 4

Rota's Xeayda Manglona is 2024 Liberation Queen

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Xeayda Manglona from Rota was crowned the 2024

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RACQUEL FLOYD
Xeayda Manglona of Rota was crowned 2024 Liberation Queen during the 78th Annual Liberation Day Royal Court Coronation last Tuesday night at the Garapan Fishing Base.

'Solar thieves' strike CK fitness center, public recreation facility

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A string of thefts on Saipan have left many in the community shocked and disturbed, and recently several thieves have been leaning toward the light, and by light,

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CHRISYTAL MARINO
An empty solar panel battery box atop a beach pavilion in Tanapag.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The fourth anniversary celebration of Savory Cafe & Bistro in Middle Road Garapan was celebrated by a packed crowd last Friday night.
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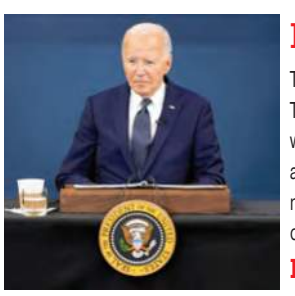

NATION
The White House announced Tuesday that President Joe Biden will meet with congressional leaders and Democratic governors, sit for a network TV interview and hold a press conference in the coming days.
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WORLD
The deputy leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said Tuesday the only sure path to a cease-fire on the Lebanon-Israel border is a full cease-fire in Gaza.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

CHCC: Rise in children with hand, foot, and mouth disease

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has identified an increase of children with hand, foot, and mouth disease and is advising residents to take necessary precautions to help prevent HFMD from spreading in our community.

HMFD is caused by a virus that can easily spread from one person to another and is most common in babies and children younger than 5 years old. CHCC has informed and provided guidance to daycare and childcare facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

To help prevent children from getting or spreading HFMD:

■ Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after changing diapers, using the toilet, and coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.

■ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared items, including toys and doorknobs.

■ Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.

■ Avoid hugging or kissing children if you or someone in your home is sick.

■ Keep children who are sick with symptoms safe at home away from others who are not sick.

■ Help children wash their hands and keep blisters clean.

Children with HFMD may have symptoms like a fever, sore throat, painful mouth sores that blister, or rash on their hands and feet. Mouth sores can make it hard to swallow or eat, make sure to drink enough fluids to stay hydrated. Children's medicine can help with fever and pain from mouth sores.

HFMD is usually not serious, most people get better on their own in seven to 10 days. However, if you think your child has HFMD or are worried about their symptoms, please see your child's healthcare provider as soon as possible.

For more information about the CHCC Environmental Health and Disease Prevention unit, call (670) 236-2022/27/28 or email the administrator of EHDP, John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@chcc.health.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.health or call us at (670) 234-8950. ***(PR)***

Toy for Tots Campaign collected over 3K toys in 2023

RACQUEL FLOYD

Second from left, Capt. Ryan E. West poses with some members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce with Chamber executive director Kim Camacho holding the plaque of appreciation received from U.S. Marine Corps Camp Blaz.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation's Toy for Tots Campaign on Saipan was able to collect a total of 3,446 toys in Christmas 2023.

This, according to Capt. Ryan E. West of the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Blaz during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall of Crown Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

West said the donated toys benefited the following groups—Karidat Foundation received 272 toys, while the Division of Youth Services received 188 toys. A total of 41 toys were given to Tlaabwogh Stars and 2,108 toys were donated to the public drive thru.

"I just appreciate you guys for allowing me come speak to you really quick," said West.

In addition, he also presented a plaque of appreciation to Chamber vice president Joshua Wise on behalf of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. The plaque is to honor their hard work from last year's Toy for Tots Campaign on Saipan.

The Toys for Tots Campaign relies on widespread support and through the generous contributions of individuals, businesses, and communities. The 2024 campaign, which will start in earnest in the runup to the Christmas season, encourages everyone to get involved, whether through toy donations or serving as a donation location.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a not-for-profit charity with a 76-year history. In 2022 the Marine Toys for Tots Program fulfilled the holiday hopes and dreams of 9.9 million less fortunate children in over 800 communities nationwide by distributing 24.4 million toys. For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org.

buzzed driving is drunk driving
NHTSA
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TINIAN 433-9222/2041
ROTA 532-9433/9350
www.dps.gov.mp
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
THIS 4TH OF JULY, BE A HERO. DESIGNATE OR BE A SOBER DRIVER.
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.

4 hospitalized in 2-vehicle crash in Puerto Rico

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Ambulances and first responders from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services arrive onsite to help those involved in a car crash in Puerto Rico yesterday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

First responders prepare to transport individuals hurt in the Puerto Rico car accident to the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A traffic collision between a passenger bus and an SUV along Chalan Pale Arnold, just north of Sitong Auto Shop, left four individuals hospitalized yesterday afternoon.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the accident occurred at 12:41pm when a white Ford E350 bus, heading southbound in the outer lane, encountered an unexpected obstacle. According to preliminary investigations, the bus driver noticed an orange Mitsubishi Outlander parked on the southbound shoulder. As the bus approached, the Outlander suddenly pulled onto the highway, resulting in the collision.

The bus was reportedly carrying nine passengers and sustained significant impact. While most passengers escaped unscathed, the driver and the front passenger reported pain and were promptly transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for further medical evaluation. Fortunately, the remaining passengers did not report any injuries.

Occupants of the Outlander faced a more serious outcome. Both the driver and the front passenger were injured and taken to CHCC, where they are currently in stable condition. A rear passenger in the Outlander miraculously emerged from the crash without any injuries.

DPS urges drivers to exercise caution and remain vigilant on the roads to prevent such incidents, and wished community members a safe Liberation Day.

"DPS would also like to remind the community to have a safe and enjoyable Liberation Day and weekend," said DPS while wishing all community members a "Happy Liberation Day on behalf of Commissioner Anthony Macaranas and the Department of Public Safety."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8th, 2024 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

RFP24-CHCC/FINANCE-015
"SINGLE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2022, 2023 & 2024"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.
We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream.
It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."
— Ronald Reagan
Happy Liberation Day!
From the management and staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Happy Independence Day
"Today, as we commemorate the bravery and foresight of our founding fathers who charted the course for our nation's freedom, let us also celebrate the diversity and resilience that make America truly exceptional."
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GARAPAN EXPRESS: OPEN DAILY FOR DINE-IN & DRIVE-THRU
24 Hours | (670) 233-8577

USS

From page 1

According to Szachta, although port visits like these are routine to allow sailors to rest and recoup, the USS *Rafael Peralta*'s current port visit is specifically in support and to take part in the 78th year commemoration celebration of the CNMI's Liberation Day.

"We're excited to be here. We really thank [the CNMI] for welcoming the USS Rafael Peralta back to Saipan. We were here just a few weeks ago and our crew of 330 officers and sailors are really excited to be back to enjoy some rest and relaxation, the food, the culture, and the hotels. But, we're also very excited to take part in commemorating the 78th anniversary of the CNMI's Liberation Day," he said.

Szachta notes that making a stop on Saipan is part of USS *Rafael Peralta*'s mission to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific

"Our ship operates off of Japan. We routinely parole and sail the waters of the western pacific to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. We believe that all nations of the world have the right to sail and fly wherever with international laws and currently those rights are being challenged by other nations so part of our job is to sail and patrol and make sure that commerce and flow freely and the nations can sail and fly wherever international law allows," he said.

USS *Rafael Peralta* will remain on Saipan throughout the rest of week until Sunday.

Meanwhile, Rear Adm. Brent DeVore adds that he is excited to celebrate the shared history the CNMI shares with America today.

"This port visit is specifically significant because this weekend, it isn't just the 4th of July which represents America's independence, but importantly as well to the people of Saipan, it's their Liberation Day as the last of their people returned from Camp Susupe. This extra layer of shared history in this region brings our people together which, for me, is truly something to celebrate. To me, Saipan is American soil and it's a crucial part of the defense of the homeland and its very fitting that we're here this week in time to celebrate 78 years of democracy," he said.

Also, DeVore thanks to the people of Saipan for their continued partnership which allows them to conduct port visits like these.

"I want to extend my extreme gratitude, on behalf of my command of the Joint Region Marianas, to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. He has always been warm and welcoming to us every time we've been able to have a visit with him. More specifically, to [the people of Saipan] and his entire team for their wonderful hospitality. In terms of military presence, there is continued growth throughout this entire region. We are committed to working alongside all of our allies and partners in defending freedom and most importantly to deter our adversaries. Our goal remains to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific in the region and its visits and the fine work that's been done by CDR Szachta and his ship and the crew of the USS *Rafael Peralta* that enable us to demonstrate our commitment to that and exercising deterrence on a day-to-day basis throughout the region," he said.

XEAYDA

From page 1

Liberation Queen at the 78th Annual Liberation Day Royal Court Coronation held at the Garapan Fishing Base Tuesday night.

After a five-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Royal Court resumed with three ladies taking part in the Royal Court competition. The basis for the decision was the ticket sales, which raised a total of $34,876 among the three candidates. Manglona sold $23,175, which made her win the crown.

Charlene Dabney finished second and received the Royal Princess title, while Nakisha Celis was the first runner-up.

"I am truly speechless, but I feel very grateful and honored and I hope I can really do my best to prove this title worthy [of me] and I really couldn't be here without my support system, my family, my community, my friends, everyone who's helped me get here. I love them endlessly and I will always be grateful towards them," said the newly crowned Liberation Queen.

Bridget Maratita-Deleon Guerrero, the Royal Court chairwoman, said that they are planning to change the age qualification next year because there were only three who participated.

"Unfortunately, this year, we only had the three and looking into next year, I'm possibly going to change the age range because I had about more inquiries, but they were not of age like 15," said Maratita.

The program was hosted by Patrick Arriola and Gus Kaipat sang the U.S. and CNMI national anthems. Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho delivered the opening remarks.

Camacho shared in his opening remarks that the CNMI has established unified mayors with strong partnership with the mayors of Tinian and Rota. "I strongly believe that we are stronger, if we all continue to work together. This is the solution to our community problems."

The 2024 Liberation Queen and the rest of the Royal Court can be seen today in the Liberation Day Parade as part 56 floats and marchers that will be participating. A total of seven floats are entered in the best float competition. Five will compete under the Non-Profit Organization category—TFOE (PE) Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, Carabao Cart, Highlands Lawn Care, CAB Dancers, and Petlas Marianas, while two will be competing in the Government Category—Office of Aging-Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and the Rota Mayor's Office. The winner of each category winner will receive a cash prize of $5,000.

Meanwhile, the Saipan Mayor's Office sent a letter to Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres in response to a social media post about DOC not being accepted as a competing float in the Liberation Day Parade due to late submission of application.

Torres said that such exclusion does not only diminish the dedication and hard work of DOC as a participant, but also fails to uphold the values of collaboration and unity that are integral to community events like the Liberation Day Parade.

Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, however, explained that, "Committee decisions were made to ensure fairness and uphold the integrity of the competition, avoiding any potential protests that may arise during and after the tilt. As the Liberation Day Committee had previously informed your office that DOC can participate in a parade as non-competing float due to not meeting the deadline."

DOC took home the top prize in the citizenship division in last year's Liberation Day Parade and won $4,000.

COST

From page 1

Rota Merchandising Corp. Seabridge agent Pedro Q. Dela Cruz has written to Palacios seeking the administration's help in lowering the cost of living on Rota which he claims skyrocketed due to RT&T recent rate increase which essentially charges companies shipping goods to Rota double for stevedoring services.

"RT&T is not following the tariff rate dated July 01, 2010, Rule 11: Stevedoring Services pertaining to unloading shipping containers and bulk cargoes, from the carrier to the dock. The rates listed under this section for unloading of containers and bulk cargoes includes the cost of equipment and labor however, RT&T double charges for the equipment and labor cost on top of the established rates as indicated in the July 1, 2021 published tariff," said Dela Cruz.

As an example, Dela Cruz said the tariff rate for a 20-foot container is $350 which should include equipment and labor charges. However, Dela Cruz said RT&T added an equipment and labor cost charge for said container on top of the $350. Dela Cruz notes that this is also true for 40-foot containers which, under tariff rate rules, should cost $650 inclusive of labor and equipment charges.

To back his argument, Dela Cruz attached a copy of a Seabridge billing which reflected RT&T overbilling Seabridge by over $21,000 for equipment and labor costs.

"The final billing to Seabridge for Voyage V.24R/V.22, August 02,2021, inclusive of the tariff rate, equipment and labor is $34,295.28. You will note that the stevedoring charges for unloading of cargo/container is $9,342.51 and $3,925.90 for special services. If RT&T is to abide with the tariff rate, the final billing to Seabridge should be $13,268.41. Based on Rule 11; RT&T overbilled Seabridge in the amount of $21,026.87," he said.

On top of violating Tariff rate rules, Dela Cruz said RT&T is effectuating a rate increase for stevedoring rental rates which would reflect an increase of 74% from the previous rates.

"Seabridge suspended shipping services to Rota after Typhoon Mawar from June 2023 to date. Seabridge experienced extensive damage to their fleet of tug boats and barges by Typhoon Mawar thus requiring extensive repair as well as dry docking in the Philippine. Seabridge announced in March 2024 the resumption of shipping services to start April 2, 2024 to Rota. Rota Merchandising Corp., dba, Isla Shipping, requested RT&T to verify the working condition of the crane to make sure that upon arrival of the Seabridge Vessel, M/V *Triton* on April 2, 2024 that RT&T will provide stevedoring operation. On March 22, 2024, Isla Shipping received an email message advising that RT&T is effectuating rate increase for stevedoring rental rates. The rate increase is 74% from the previous rates," he said.

Dela Cruz said he has sent an email to Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Joe Ayuyu advising CPA of RT&T's astronomical rate increase.

"[This is] affecting the people of Rota and it is creating chaos to the economy. Due to this increase, the retail price for 50-lb [sack] of rice is $80, in addition, there is a domino effect on the other staple goods within local stores. As a result of my email to CPA, the other agencies of the Commonwealth government took action to advise RT&T of their negligence in complying to the government requirements governing business activities and reporting requirements in compliance with business regulation," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SOLAR

From page 1

meaning solar lights.

Latte Built 24HR Fitness in Chalan Kanoa is the latest victim of the "solar thieves" when the perpetrators stole three out of four newly installed $500 solar lights from the gym's extended parking lot.

Latte Built owner Derek Cutting said because the theft incident involved just solar lights, he didn't bother to report it to the police.

"It's not a diss on them in any way, they're just busy and there's other things they have to worry about more besides my solar lights. But the fact that it's been happening all over the island may be a case we could put together in that sense. I just saw that in Tanapag solar batteries were stolen and I've heard others say that their solar lights were also stolen."

Cutting then reached out to community members who may have seen parts of the solar light or the solar light itself to notify him. He also wants to warn other community members about the thefts and hopefully prevent it from happening.

Another solar theft took place in the village of Tanapag, this time it was a public pavilion's solar panel batteries that were taken.

Division of Parks and Recreation director Michael Cruz said the pavilions are under his office's jurisdiction and he's upset about the latest incident.

"I stay in Tanapag and I don't appreciate this. The government gives us opportunities to have lighting at night for everyone using the place."

He shared that the solar paneling lights were provided by the Office of Grant Management under administrator Epi Cabrera. Through the partnership and funding, the goal had been to put solar panels to bring light to a majority of public pavilions on island.

Cruz said last week his staff heard that the once very well-lit pavilion in Tanapag has dimmed out and after sending staff to check it, they opened the solar panel to find the batteries stolen.

"I feel heartbroken because I don't know if we can afford to replace it. Whenever something like this gets stolen it's so hard to replace, especially since we use federal grants to help us get this stuff. And we still have more facilities we are supposed to install these solar panels on."

Cruz said TurnKey Solutions donated several solar cameras, but he feels uncomfortable to have to survey every pavilion just for the sake of checking their paneling.

He shared that he'd rather see community members self-govern and be responsible to care for the facilities and the resources given them.

"We have to take care of what we have now and be grateful for it...We can always clean the parks, we can always maintain it, but what we have there, we can't always replace. All I ask the community is please take care of what we got now because I don't know if we can afford replacing those stuff. Just treat it like you own it, we have to take that responsibility."

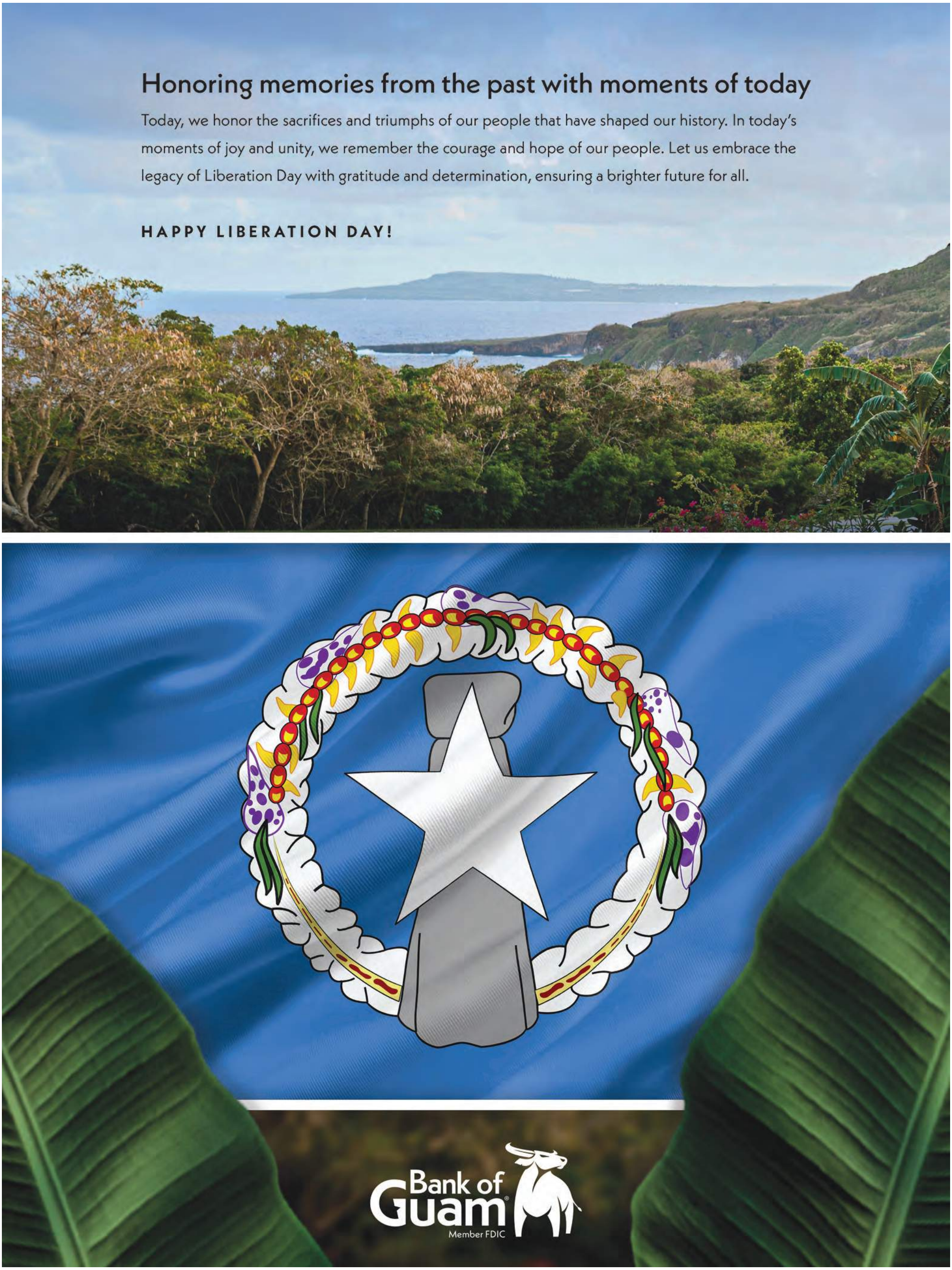
Cruz said everyone should have a mindset that these things belong to the community and not to the government.

"If you're planning to take stuff like this, just remember your family is using it too. It's like you're taking stuff from your own family and it's hard enough to get money to get those replaced not to mention put it up. These things are not cheap."

Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, took to social media to ask community members to keep an eye out for anyone who may have been involved in the theft.

"Truly heartbreaking hearing that the batteries for the solar panel at the Tanapag pavilion was recently stolen. This was donated and installed for the community to enjoy. Kindly asking the community in the North to keep an eye out for anyone suspicious behind this unfortunate incident."

The Department of Public Safety, for its part, said they're currently investigating the multiple cases on thefts of solar lights and solar panel batteries. DPS is asking the public to be vigilant and report suspicious activities. If anyone has information about these incidents, they may call the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) at (670) 664-9042, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous.


Honoring memories from the past with moments of today
Today, we honor the sacrifices and triumphs of our people that have shaped our history. In today's moments of joy and unity, we remember the courage and hope of our people. Let us embrace the legacy of Liberation Day with gratitude and determination, ensuring a brighter future for all.
HAPPY LIBERATION DAY!
Bank of Guam
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Happy
July 4th!
Today we celebrate the enduring spirit of America – a spirit rooted in hope, opportunity, and the belief that together, we can create a brighter tomorrow.
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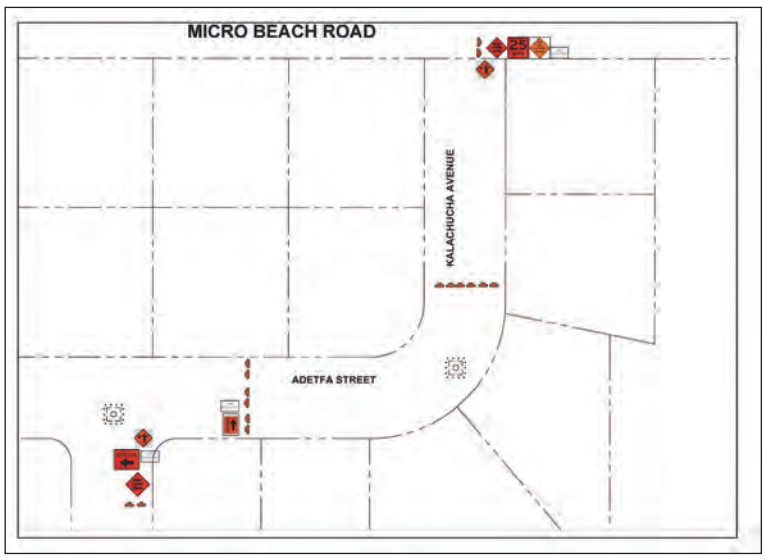
Temporary road closure for Lower Miha Village in Garapan



CUC
The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s temporary road closure along Adetfa Street and Kalachucha Avenue in Lower Miha Village, Garapan.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to notify the general public of the ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan.

It will be necessary for CUC's contractor, Hong Ye Construction, to temporarily close Adetfa Stree and Kalachucha Avenue to replace the existing ACP sewer line and establish a new route for its replacement. Additionally, this project will involve reconnecting residences affected by the construction. Roads will be closed beginning Wednesday, July 3, 2024, to Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 6am to 7pm. There may be adjustments to the closure time based on the tide level and existing hard rock conditions of the trench, affecting the groundwater level, and interfering with the construction work. Residents in the area will be provided with detailed directions by CUC's contractor regarding how to access their property. Detour signs will be displayed to inform the traveling public of the restrictions.

Customers in the area will not experience any disruption to their power, water, or wastewater services as a result of the work.

The Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (to provide a more reliable sewer system to the CNMI. The transition work is part of the decommissioning of the old sewer line and will be replaced with PVC pipes.

CUC encourages the public to avoid these areas during construction and appreciates your cooperation in accommodating the traffic restrictions necessary to complete this critical infrastructure improvement project for our customers. For more information, please contact our hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit our website, and monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

HAPPY
Fourth of July
May the principles of freedom continue to inspire us to strive for a more just, inclusive, and prosperous society where every individual has the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.
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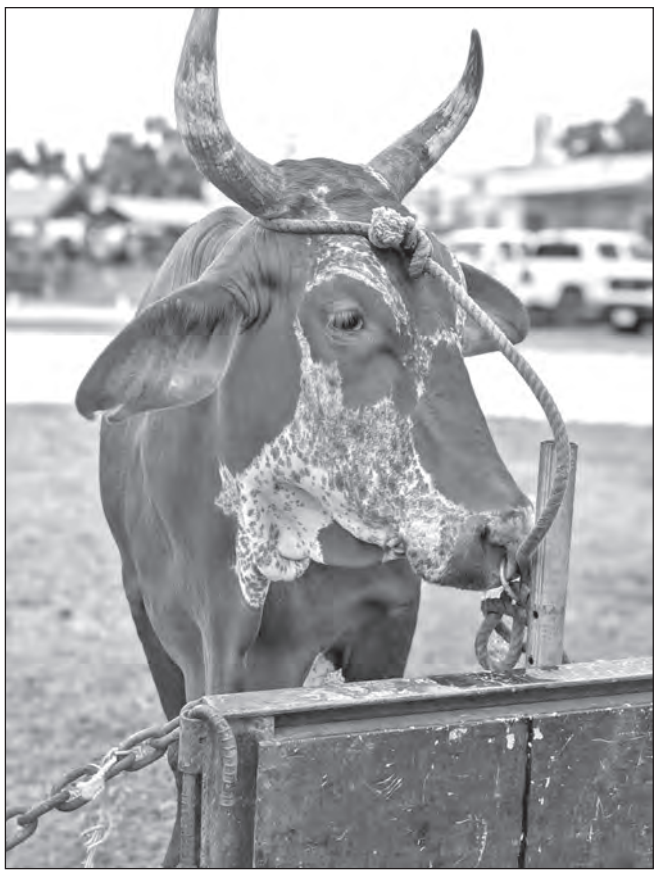

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A cow at the recent Agricultural Fair takes a break from pulling the cart.

DLNR conducts livestock survey in CNMI

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Animal Health Division is launching a comprehensive livestock survey across the CNMI islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. This initiative aims to gather critical data to enhance animal health and production programs for the benefit of local ranchers and the broader community.

The survey began on Saipan last July 1. Animal Health staff will coordinate with and visit Saipan ranchers to conduct the survey and ask questions. The survey will then be expanded to the islands of Tinian and Rota.

Collected data will be instrumental in identifying the needs and challenges faced by ranchers, allowing the Animal Health Division to tailor its support and seek resources more effectively.

"We are committed to improving the health and productivity of livestock in the CNMI," said Lauren Cabrera, Animal Health manager of DLNR. "This survey will provide us with the necessary insights to develop better programs and services that directly address the concerns of our local ranchers."

The survey will explore areas such as animal health needs, challenges faced by ranchers, animal reproduction, and more.

Ranchers' participation is crucial for the success of this initiative. By providing detailed and accurate information, they will contribute significantly to shaping the future of livestock and poultry programs in the region.

For more information about the survey or to participate, contact Animal Health at (670) 256-3319 or cnmianimalhealth@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A piglet at the recent Agricultural Fair awaits the greased pig contest.

CUC ADVISORIES

CUC offices closed in observance of Independence Day—July 4-5

In observance of Independence Day, CUC Offices and Customer Service Centers will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024, and Friday, July 5, 2024.

For more information, contact our hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit our website, and monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

2023 Water Quality Report now available

Your 2023 CUC Water Quality Report is now available online! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following links to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2023 and to learn more about your drinking water.

- For Saipan, go to https://www.cucgov.org/spn2023
- For Tinian, go to https://www.cucgov.org/tin2023
- For Rota, go to https://www.cucgov.org/rota2023

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or e-mailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Fuel Adjustment Charge remains the same for July 2024

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announces that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains the same at $0.24173 per kWh for the month of July. Although there has been a slight decrease in the average fuel oil prices, the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, which is strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, which has not increased since April 2014 and is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any nonfuel-related expenses. ***(PR)***

Name: Ke'ala Mangarero
Address: Chalan Laulau Middle Road
Phone: (670) 484-0359
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:	]	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0236
	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
T.J.M.D., A.E.J.M.D., and P.M.M.D. Minor Child(ren)	]	
By:	]	
Ke'ala Mangarero Petitioner(s)	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 14th day of June, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for NMTech

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. The Northern Marianas Technical Institute proposes to construct **Five (5)** pre-engineered metal buildings for its Workforce Career Training Facility. This use is classified as a "Government Service" and is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot 005 I 608 in the village of Koblerville. This area is zoned as Public Resource.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **July 11, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 10, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Board Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 07/11/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 06/06/24 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2024-1746** –The Northern Marian as Technical Institute (NMTech) proposes to construct five (5) pre-engineered metal buildings for its Workforce Career Training Facility. This use is classified as a "Government Service" and is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot 005 I 608 in the village of Koblerville. This area is zoned as Public Resource

C. Old Business

1. To impose requirements on Rezone process – Board Resolution *(Expiration date to commence development after adoption of Rezone applications by the Commonwealth Zoning Board and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation)*
2. Parking regulations in Garapan Core (GC), Garapan East (GE), Village Commercial (VC), and other zoning districts – Board Resolution

D. New Business

1. None

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates
   a. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations for public comments
   b. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 for public comments
   c. Status update on Board Resolution No. 2023-12-04: Ground signs
   d. Public Nuisance campaign – dilapidated/ unsafe structures and fencing, junk cars, trash bins, etc.

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 133

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Court supremacy: The Supreme Court appoints itself ultimate expert on governing

In an ideologically-split 6-3 ruling Friday, the Supreme Court overruled what's known as Chevron deference, a longtime legal principle that held that when administrative statutes are not explicit, federal agencies have latitude to interpret them, particularly when it comes to regulations. It's not a widely-known principle but has undergirded the functioning of government for more than 40 years.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the overturned presumption "is misguided because agencies have no special competence in resolving statutory ambiguities. Courts do." In isolation, this might make sense. Interpreting statutes is the judiciary's whole bread and butter. If and when things aren't laid out explicitly and in detail, we need an arbiter to make a final decision.

But the courts have neither the ability nor knowledge to intervene in every case of ambiguity. The administration of a government the size and complexity of ours is not largely about resolving occasional broad statutory questions. Agencies all around the country rely on subject matter experts and career officials to make determinations about thousands of granular, often technical matters.

These determinations are in furtherance of enacting the goals of Congress, because it turns out that Congress itself does not remotely possess the capability to do this itself. Legislators are sent to Washington to represent the interests of their constituents, not to understand the proper storage conditions for biohazardous materials on commercial transport flights or the control group requirements for human trials of heart drugs under FDA consideration. For that matter, judges should not be the ones parsing these things, basically because they can't.

On this Editorial Board, we do our best to dive into multiple areas of public policy and society, talking to experts and stakeholders to come up with informed opinions on everything from public transit to health delivery to immigration. We often disagree with certain policy decisions or their implementation; what we don't do is believe that we have the capacity to overrule technical experts on the base-level facts.

Do you, reader, know what polyfluoroalkyl substances are? These "forever chemicals" didn't exist a few decades ago, but increasing bodies of research show that these chemicals are now in the bloodstream of practically every human on Earth, and are toxic in various ways. The Environmental Protection Agency is now endeavoring to limit the use and production of these chemicals. Does this fall into the EPA's regulatory authority? What's the proper way to safeguard public health and the environment in this matter?

The query overlaid over all those others is: who should answer this question? Should it be medical doctors and PhDs in chemical engineering, or federal court judges, who will move even slower than internal agency deliberations?

Now multiply that by every issue in every agency and you start to see the problem. Chevron's detractors always maintained that companies wouldn't begin to frivolously challenge practically every regulation enacted upon them by agency experts. Now we'll find out, and we might all have worse air, worse products, worse consumer and labor protections and worse medical outcomes for it.

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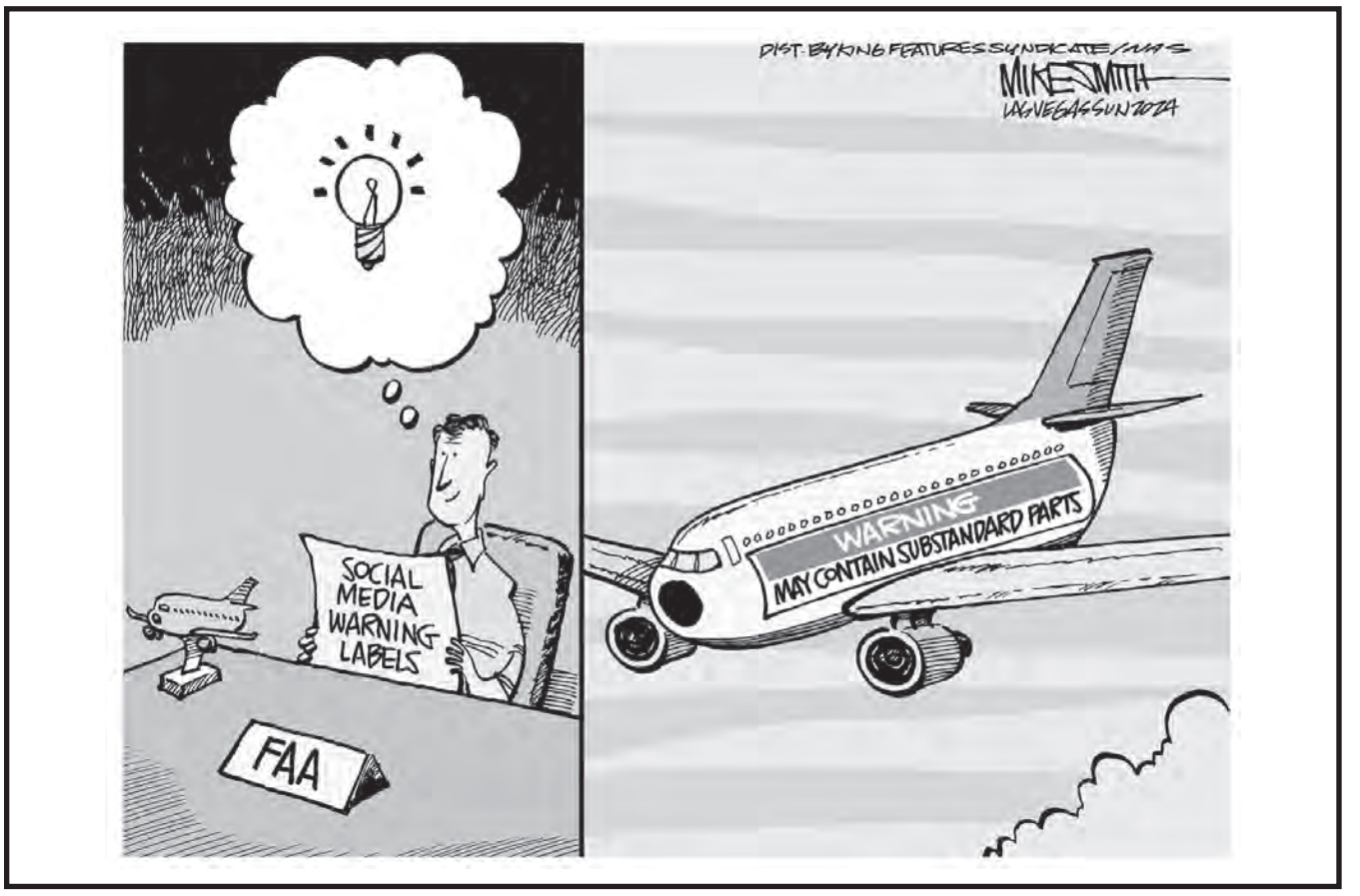


We should all dissent from the Supreme Court's immunity decision, and not respectfully

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY
Los Angeles Times

Erwin Chemerinsky is a contributing writer to Opinion and the dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law.

As Justice Sonia Sotomayor powerfully said in her dissent in *Trump v. United States*, the Supreme Court on Monday made "a mockery of the principle, foundational to our Constitution and system of Government, that no man is above the law." In a 6-3 decision, the six Republican-appointed justices handed a stunning victory to Donald Trump in broadly defining the scope of absolute presidential immunity from criminal prosecution.

Donald Trump was indicted in federal district court in Washington for his role in attempting to undermine the results of the November 2020 presidential election. Trump moved to dismiss the indictment on the grounds that his actions occurred while he was still in the White House and that a president has absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for anything done while in office. Both the federal district court and the United States Court of Appeals rejected this argument, stressing that the core of the rule of law is that no one, not even a president, is above the law.

Although the Supreme Court did not go as far as Trump wanted, its ruling is a clear a victory for him and for future presidents. In an opinion by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the court said that a president has absolute immunity for his official acts. The court expansively defined this as anything done in carrying out the constitutional powers of the president or in implementing a federal statute. The conservative majority then went further and said, "We conclude that the separation of powers principles explicated in our precedent necessitate at least a presumptive immunity from criminal prosecution for a president's acts within the outer perimeter of his official responsibility." And Roberts said that a court cannot look at a president's motives.

The breadth of this immunity is stunning. Imagine, to use an example that was raised at the oral arguments, that a president orders the Navy Seals to kill a political rival. Under the court's approach that would be protected by absolute immunity because it is an action taken by the president carrying out his powers as commander in chief. The court was explicit that the president's craven political motives are irrelevant.

Or imagine that a president orders the Justice Department to investigate and indict a political rival solely to gain a political advantage. Or imagine, as Trump has already pledged, that if again elected president he would use the Justice Department for retribution and to prosecute his opponents. That, too, would clearly be protected by absolute immunity under the court's decision. In fact, Roberts wrote: "The President cannot be prosecuted for conduct within his exclusive constitutional authority. Trump is therefore absolutely immune from prosecution for the alleged conduct involving his discussions with Justice Department officials." Indeed, the court went so far as to say that Trump's pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to ignore the results of the electoral college decision had a presumption of absolute immunity.

The court said that private or personal acts of a president, as opposed to official ones, are not protected by absolute immunity from prosecution. The court left open the question of whether there is absolute immunity for Trump's pressuring state election officials, such as in Georgia, and for his conduct on Jan. 6. The court remanded these questions to the lower courts to decide. But even this is a victory for Trump in that the court did not declare the obvious: These unquestionably were personal and political actions.

It is for this reason that Sotomayor in her dissent says that the justices "in effect, completely insulate Presidents from criminal liability." As she says, it is "an expansive vision of Presidential immunity that was never recognized by the Founders, any sitting President, the Executive Branch, or even President Trump's lawyers, until now."

In the past, when the court has dealt with issues like this, it has been unanimous and stressed the importance of holding a president accountable and upholding the rule of law. In United States vs. Nixon, in 1974, the court unanimously held that President Nixon could not invoke executive privilege to thwart a criminal investigation. In Clinton vs. Jones, in 1997, the court unanimously ruled that President Clinton had no immunity to protect him from a lawsuit for sexual harassment that occurred when he was governor of Arkansas.

But we live in a very different, far more partisan time. It is impossible to read the decision in Trump v. United States as other than a court with six Republican justices handing a major victory to the Republican candidate for president, Donald Trump. Indeed, the court's handling of the case, denying review that was requested in January and then not releasing its opinion until July 1, was in itself a victory in ensuring that there is no way that Trump can be tried before the November 2024 presidential election.

Roberts concluded his opinion by rightly saying: "This case poses a question of lasting significance." Unfortunately, the court gave an answer to that question that undermines the rule of law and creates a serious future threat to our democracy in placing the president largely above the law.

Making Tourism Our Business: #The Marianas #VisitTheMarianas #MyMarianas

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The attention of the world has been on Saipan and the Marianas in the last week with Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's whirlwind stop in Saipan to plead guilty in U.S. district court to a felony charge of violating the Espionage Act. Sentenced to time served in a British prison, he walked away a free man.

Thanks to the deluge of resulting international media coverage, millions of people across the globe are now asking themselves, where and what are Saipan and the Marianas? It's been an incredible amount of free publicity exposure that we could not have otherwise afforded, and there's no better time than now to amplify that exposure to promote the Marianas through a collective community effort online.

There is strength in numbers when we speak with one voice. We've seen the effectiveness of this in several online voting contests in recent years, where the people of the Marianas have rallied in support of islanders vying for various titles in the internationally and in U.S. mainland. Thanks to our collective vote, we have helped them secure "People's Choice" titles and more.

The trend in marketing and promotions in today's travel culture has shifted tremendously to on-line word-of-mouth testimonials from people who have actually been to the destination. One of the best ways we can use this promotional opportunity to our advantage is by posting, liking, and sharing content about the Marianas with strategic hashtags, like #TheMarianas, #VisitTheMarianas, and #MyMarianas, along with respective island tags, like #Saipan #Tinian #Rota #NorthernIslands. This will provide several benefits, including 1) building awareness of the Marianas, 2) helping people find us online, and 3) increasing engagement with people interested in us. Uniting under common hashtags, we can amplify the message of the Marianas around the world.

This is a strategy the MVA has applied for many years with its numerous campaigns in our off-shore markets, such as Korea, Hong Kong and Japan. We partner with KOLS—key opinion leaders—with large social media followings to create and share content about the Marianas, with our hashtags across all types of platforms: Instagram, YouTube, Meta (formerly Facebook), Naver, and more. We promote and recruit social media followers through on-line campaigns and in-person events, like the recent International Travel Expo Hong Kong we attended. Through the years, this strategy has generated tens of millions of dollars in free public relations exposure in various languages.

But honestly, there's no better group of people to promote the Marianas than the people of the Marianas. When it comes to our way of life, our history, our culture, our values, our islands, *we* are the KOLs…the best places to chill, the way we help each other as a community in good times and in bad, the beauty and cultural secrets of our breathtaking nature, the ways we move with mindfulness in the way we respect others and our environment, and more. These are the beautiful ways of the Marianas worth sharing with the world. And we can do just that with a simple common hashtag.

There are several best-practices related to hashtags worth mentioning, including the optimal number of hashtags for various platforms: Meta, 2-3; Instagram, 3-5; YouTube, 3-5, TikTok, 3-5. Check out other recommendations for maximizing post effectiveness.

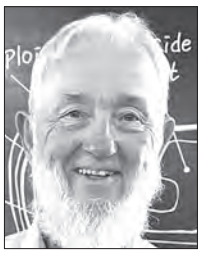
Mr. Assange has left the Marianas. The media his visit brought here have largely departed, as well. But the effect of that visit will remain as the name of Saipan and the Marianas is forever tied to this story. Now is the time to use that as a springboard to another story we can take around the world…the story of who we are as a people and a destination. Your favorite fishing spot, the generous buffet at your grandmother's birthday, your preferred hiking trail, your pick for the best happy hour location, your traditional cultural knowledge, your family…let's tag together and share the parts of our story of what makes the Marianas an incredible place to live and visit.

3 cheers for the Red, White, and Blue

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



THE FLAG GOES BY

By Henry H. Bennett

'Hats off! Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums
A flash of color beneath the sky: Hats off!
The flag is passing by!' (repeat at the end)
Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped ordered lines.
Hats off! The colors before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by..
Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State:
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;
Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of strong land's swift increase;
Equal justice, right and law,
Stately honor and reverend awe;
Sign of a nation, great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong;
Pride and glory and honor, - all
Live in the colors to stand or fall.
'Hats off! Along the street there comes…'

H.H. Bennett wrote this poem in 1897.
Notice how much of its imagery came true
right here on Saipan and Tinian islands
50 years later during WWII and during our
Liberation Day Parade today on Beach Road.

SWEET SENRYU RED WHITE AND BLUE

Candy red apples on a stick give em a lick
half moon cookies chocolate and white
watch the moon tonight and take a bite
my sister's rhubarb raspberries and blue
plenty of penny pies for you
blueberry raspberry apple cherry
fresh pumpernickel rye bread
many hungry mouths are fed
vanilla ice cream on a stick
pink and white cotton candy fluff
eat and lick before they melt. quick!
popsicles and ice keke red and blue
vanilla shakes and banana smoothie
summer delights for me and you.

America's teachers are unhappy. Here's how we can turn that around

By ERIKA DONALDS
The Heritage Foundation

Erika Donalds is CEO of OptimaEd and a Visiting Fellow in the Center for Education Policy at The Heritage Foundation.

All is not well with America's teachers.

Surveys published this spring paint an alarming picture of the reality teachers face every day in our country's classrooms.

Inflation has hit their earnings. Top-down regulation has smothered their creativity and motivation. Union-driven, one-size-fits-all contracts thwart career advancement. Teachers complain of a lack of control over discipline policies, verbal abuse and threats of physical violence.

According to the Pew Research Center, more than four-fifths of teachers surveyed by the RAND Corporation said public education has gotten worse in the past five years. More than half say it's likely to keep getting worse over the next five, and a majority would not recommend their profession to the class of 2024.

A Brown University analysis shows that since 2009, the number of parents who say they want their child to grow up to become a teacher has fallen by half.

High school students considering future careers say better pay is the no. 1 factor that could make a teaching job more appealing. Next on the list are meaningful opportunities for career advancement, more autonomy on the job, and more professional prestige.

Effective teachers deserve these perks. But they won't get them from existing public school systems.

We need to increase teachers' ability to choose where they work.

As a Certified Public Accountant, I had a choice of career paths. I could have applied to an international Big Three accounting firm, joined a smaller specialty firm, taken an in-house job with a company or government agency, or gone into business for myself.

Right now, nearly nine in 10 American teachers are stuck with the first option—working for a large institution, usually a school district. Some take the second option, working for smaller private or charter schools. But for most educators, that is where the options end.

We must make it easier for teachers to go into business for themselves, creating their own schools or offering their own courses, tutoring or other educational services.

In my home state of Florida, more teachers are going this route, serving families who use the nation's largest education choice program. As one teacher said after founding her own small academy for 16 middle school students: "I am 100 percent free. And I love it."

Every teacher should have the freedom to design their own education solutions and market them directly to families.

Imagine Uber or AirBnB for education: An online platform that allows educators to offer their services to as many families as are willing to pay. One teacher could offer Advanced Placement English to hundreds of students at a time, and be compensated based on the popularity of their course, instead of a flat district salary schedule.

Websites like Outschool are moving in this direction, offering tens of thousands of courses, most of them electives or enrichment options.

When school districts have to compete to attract the most talented teachers, the best teachers' pay will rise and excellence will be rewarded. Studies have found that expanding school choice options can create a bidding war for excellent teachers, pushing salaries higher.

To make this a reality, we also need to stop forcing new teachers to jump through pointless hoops. Teachers fast-tracked into classrooms during the pandemic performed about as well as their colleagues who cleared the usual bureaucratic hurdles to get traditional teaching certificates.

Economists recently ran the numbers on the value of different degrees, and found the return on investment for a traditional teaching credential is close to zero.

It's no wonder. Teacher preparation programs can be money makers for colleges, but they offer little practical guidance on how to manage a classroom or deliver a lesson.

Certification requirements mostly serve to detract candidates with agency from pursuing the teaching profession. Those who persist are forced to take on tens of thousands of dollars in debt to sit through hours of abstract theorizing and ideological indoctrination—only to walk into class on day 1 of their first year ill-equipped to handle the student who won't take his seat.

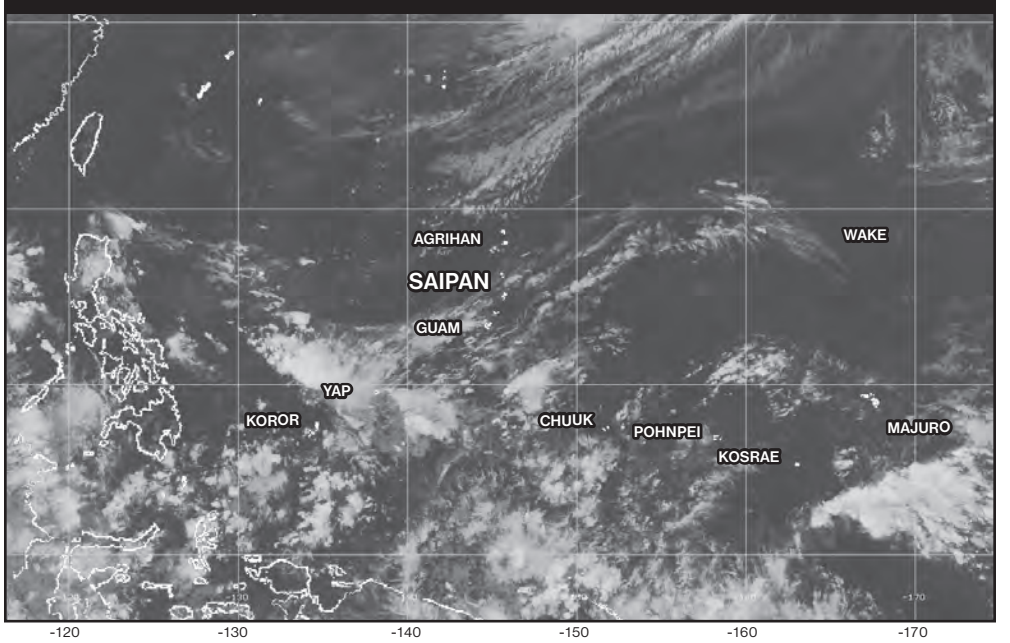
Teachers deserve better. They deserve to be "100 percent free."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:28 AM WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Based on satellite and model guidance trends, delayed the onset of scattered showers until tonight. Otherwise no changes of any note. While you can`t really call it a TUTT because it connects to the mid latitudes, it is an upper-level trough which is having a similar effect, increasing the local thunderstorm activity.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:48 AM	5:24 PM	-
Friday	4:45 AM	6:23 PM	-
Saturday	5:44 AM	7:18 PM	-
Sunday	6:42 AM	8:07 PM	-
Monday	7:38 AM	8:51 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Beijing	Thunderstorm	79° / 68°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Osaka	Rain	79° / 72°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Busan	Thunderstorm	75° / 66°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorm	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 68°
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 70°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:03 AM	Low Tide	1.54
4:57 AM	High Tide	2.12
12:43 PM	Low Tide	-0.26
8:11 PM	High Tide	2.03

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Saipan, placid island setting for ASSANGE'S LAST BATTLE, is briefly mobbed—and bemused by the fuss

AP PHOTOS

Journalists set up their camera to cover WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange who was brought to court to enter a plea deal, in Saipan, Mariana Islands, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands (AP)—It was a peculiar setting to the final act in a legal drama that has now spanned the globe: a rural Western Pacific island, where visitors are usually tourists—attracted by laid-back resorts, snorkeling, diving and golf—and the furthermost reach of the United States.

When Julian Assange stepped from a car Wednesday to enter the Saipan courthouse, from which he would emerge hours later a free man, it was against a backdrop that could have adorned a travel brochure. Palm trees waved gently and verdant hills stood against a bright blue sky.

If the location felt bizarre to Assange, his sudden arrival—along with dozens of reporters from news outlets across the world—was equally startling to the 43,000 residents of the largest island and capital of the Northern Marianas, a territory of the United States. Fueled by tourism, Saipan's economy is struggling to rebound after the coronavirus pandemic and a devastating typhoon in 2018, with a declining number of direct flights to the island vexing the local travel industry.

Journalists wait for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange outside the court where he is expected to enter a plea deal, in Saipan, Mariana Islands, Wednesday, June 26 2024.

Journalists wait for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in Saipan, Mariana Islands, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

Near the courthouse where Assange's spectacle unfolded, Hitomi Matagolai, a wedding planner, had come to windsurf off the beach because her business was slow.

"The hearing was not like, talk of the town here and people are not all that interested," she said. "People here have more important things to worry about, like their work, and that's what we talk about."

The so-called "Caribbean of the Western Pacific" has traditionally been a vacation spot for Japanese, Korean and Chinese tourists escaping wintry weather at home, said Mark Rabago, editor of the Saipan Tribune, a weekday newspaper.

"We haven't had this kind of publicity since the Miura case 15 years ago," Rabago said, referring to the case of businessperson Kazuyoshi Miura, who in 2008 was arrested in Saipan in connection with the death of his wife.

More than 15 years on, Assange's case was much different: with the expected outcome known in advance, the world's media converged on Saipan for theater, rather than surprises. But their arrival came unexpectedly for the low-key, rural island.

Accommodation providers, restaurants, law enforcement and tourism officials had "literally less than 24 hours" to prepare for the influx, said Christopher Concepcion, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. Police officers were deployed to the airport and the courthouse as the WikiLeaks founder arrived there and hotels reported a surge in bookings as reporters scrambled to find places to stay.

"We're used to seeing a bunch of tourists from east Asia, but seeing international media descend on the island all at once, if you will, has been an interesting phenomenon," Concepcion said.

The tourism agency recorded a surge in the number of people visiting its website and social media platforms, and the tourism head said he hoped the balmy island setting for Assange's last legal hurdle would prompt interest from international visitors — particularly as the case emphasized the island's relative proximity to Australia.

"In show business, there's no such thing as bad publicity, right?" Concepcion added.

Central to Wednesday's events was a building not frequented by most tourists: the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, one of Saipan's newest and grandest buildings. Opened in 2020, the 36,000-square-foot (3,300-square-meter) courthouse looms over the downtown landscape. In front, tall, white pillars mark an elegant and imposing forecourt, while windows at the rear of the building show a commanding view of glittering azure sea.

Before the notorious murder extradition case in 2008, the last time Saipan made world news was when the Japanese emperor and empress visited sites of military significance in 2005, said Rabago of the Saipan Tribune. Steeped in WWII history, the island was the site of one of war's bloodiest battles in the Pacific, in which more than 50,000 Japanese and American soldiers and local civilians died.

Banzai Cliff became known as Suicide Cliff after the mass suicides of soldiers and civilians jumping off the cliff at the end of the Battle of Saipan in the summer of 1944, when Japan was headed toward World War II defeat. Emperor Akihito, who abdicated in 2019, prayed at the Banzai Cliff in 2005 when he made a rare foreign visit to pay tribute to the war dead.

On Wednesday afternoon, the cliff—a popular tourist site—was host to a group of four South Korean visitors who were outnumbered by workers mowing the grass. One man preparing to depart in his pickup truck said the case was probably the biggest event to happen on Saipan in decades—although he had mixed views on Assange himself.

It might have been the most unusual Wednesday in memory for some, but as Assange's plane took off hours after the hearing—reporters not far behind him—the familiar pace of things returned.

"It's back to normal beach resort life for us on Thursday," Concepcion said.

Still, he hoped the island had not seen its last of the Australian.

"When he has the time, we totally invite him to come back and enjoy a vacation here with his family," Concepcion said hopefully. His promise to Assange? "People tend to mind their own business and there's no paparazzi."

At least not usually.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, centre, is escorted to a vehicle as he leaves the federal court in Saipan, Mariana Islands, Wednesday, June 26 2024.

A plane carrying WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange takes off from Saipan, Mariana Islands, Wednesday, June 26 2024.

Business

Savory Cafe & Bistro marks 4th anniversary

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

The fourth anniversary celebration of Savory Cafe & Bistro in Middle Road, Garapan was celebrated by a packed crowd last Friday night.

It was April of last year when they moved to their new location from Beach Road.

Jennifer Elayda, who owns Savory Cafe & Bistro, says that their uniqueness lies in treating customers like family. "We stand out because we treat our customers like family. We do our best to provide them a comfortable and homey dining experience, creating a warm and welcoming environment."

Elayda referred to managing the economic downturn on Saipan due to fewer tourists as a highly challenging task.

"Because of the economic situation on Saipan, we depend on our local and regular customers. Our loyal customer base and commitment to providing excellent service have been one of the ways we maintain stability during times of economic downturns.'

The restaurant was blessed by Fr. Ray Rosal before the door opened to guests. Former representative Angel Demapan and his wife were among the special guests.

The guests paid an entrance of $14.99, which consisted of dinner and a raffle ticket.

RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Savory Bistro Café's 4th Anniversary celebration was packed with a crowd last June 28.

Following dinner, Savory's regular emcee, Malou Lambat, hosted the program, and previous champions of Savory Karaoke Star, opened the show with a song number.

Savory Cafe & Bistro holds the Savory Got Talent competition every year as their annual anniversary celebration, as they treat both their customers and staff like family. "We make sure that we show appreciation to our staff because of the hard work and effort they put in," Elayda said.

Four employees of Savory Cafe & Bistro competed for the Savory Got Talent. Savory waitstaff Shary Rabana, a 30-year-old who sang Vanessa Williams' "Colors of the Wind" was awarded first place and earned $300. The second-place winner was Harold Laguna, baker at Savory, who won $200. Another waitstaff, Arvie Musni, placed third and won $100. Ernie Molina and Shine Vizcarra served as judges.

RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Savory Bistro Café Like and Share winners, second from left, third place Melca Javellana Austria, first place Annalou Tangcalan, and second place Chelly David.

RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Savory Bistro Café owners with their special guest, from left, former representative Angel Demapan, Jennifer Elayda, Miguel Elayda, and TaAnn Kabua.

RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Savory Bistro Café Got Talent winners pose with the owners, from left, Jennifer Elayda, second place winner Harold Laguna, third place winner Arvie Musni, first place winner Shary Rabana, fourth place Julie Santos, and Miguel Elayda.

The highlight of the program was the awarding of winners for the Like & Share promo that started on June 13 and ended at 2pm on June 28. To participate in the promo, customers were required to dine-in and take pictures of their favorite food and share them on social media, either on Facebook or Instagram. Additionally, they were required to tag Savory and five of their friends with the hashtag savoryatfour. The most likes and shares will win.

Annalou Tangcalacan took first place with her post, which received 506 likes and 3,200 shares, winning the 40" Smart TV.

Tangcalan, 8 years old, said in the interview with *Saipan Tribune*, "I received those likes and share from my family and friends, I never stop reminding them to share that even my husband and children stayed up late with me but it's all worth it."

With 311 likes and 2,500 shares, Chelly David came in second place and got a gift certificate for a staycation at Saipan World Resort.

Melca Javellana Austria finished third with 248 likes and 1,500 shares and was awarded a Bluetooth speaker.

An impromptu jam session was also part of the program, where nine members of the audience participated and were judged by the audience's clapping. Jenna Jaye and Alyanna Rotap won the contest.

Dancers from the Zumba group Xtreme Fitness 670 performed during the competition, and the raffle prize draw concluded the program.

Elayda would like to invite the community of Saipan to join the Savory Karaoke Star Season 4 this July. This activity offers entertainment and a sense of relief or composure for our customers who regularly go through obstacles in life.

Introducing The Terrace Club

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is excited to introduce The Terrace Club Saipan, our innovative membership rewards app, now available for download on Android Google Play and the iOS App Store. This app promises to enhance your experience with exclusive benefits and exciting rewards just for you.

» Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's new rewards app

Exclusive member benefits

By joining The Terrace Club, you immediately start enjoying special perks. As a warm welcome, members receive a $25 voucher when they spend a minimum of $50 at The Terrace. But that's just the beginning. As a valued member, you will also enjoy a generous 15% discount on your bill at the following restaurants and bars: The Terrace, Market Place, Mari Bar, and the captivating Ataari Dinner Show.

Earn points and redeem exciting rewards

Every dollar you spend at our restaurants and bars earns you 10 points, bringing you closer to a variety of enticing rewards. Whether you're dining at The Terrace Restaurant, enjoying the inviting atmosphere at Market Place, sipping a refreshing drink at Mari Bar, experiencing the thrill of the Ataari Dinner Show, or indulging in the exquisite flavors at Mai Teppanyaki, your points will add up quickly.

Unlock a range of rewards as you accumulate points, including a large americano at Market Place, a beer at Mari Bar, a cocktail of choice at Mari Bar or a dinner for two at The Terrace or Ataari Dinner Show. For even better rewards, you can redeem points for a delicious dinner for four at Mai Teppanyaki or even a night's stay in one of our ocean view rooms or suites, complete with breakfast for two.

Stay connected and convenient

The Terrace Club Saipan app keeps you updated on all our latest promotions through the What's Hot section, ensuring you never miss out on exciting offers and events.

Additionally, the app allows you to make reservations directly, making your planning seamless and hassle-free.

Download The Terrace Club Saipan today and start earning points towards your next unforgettable experience at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Visit our website: theterraceclubsaipan.com and follow us on social media: instagram.com/theterraceclubsaipan.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***

US job openings rise to 8.1M despite higher interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP)— U.S. job openings rose slightly to 8.1 million in May despite the impact of higher interest rates intended to cool the labor market.

Vacancies rose from a revised 7.9 million in April, the first reading below 8 million since February 2021, the Labor Department reported Tuesday. April openings were marked down from an originally reported 8.1 million.

Layoffs rose to 1.65 million in May from 1.54 million in April. The number of Americans quitting their jobs — a sign of confidence in their prospects—was basically unchanged.

"The report was another sign that the labor market is holding firm … The expansion looks solid," said Robert Frick, economist at the Navy Federal Credit Union.

The U.S. economy and job market have been remarkably resilient in the face of the Federal Reserve's campaign to raise interest rates to rein in inflation. The Fed hiked its benchmark rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023, lifting it to a 23-year high.

Defying expectations of a recession, the U.S. economy kept growing and employers kept hiring.

But lately there have been signs the economy is losing some steam. Job openings have come steadily down since peaking at 12.2 million in March 2022. The job market is still strong. There are 1.25 jobs for every unemployed American, but that's down from a 2-to-1 ratio in January 2023.

Fed policymakers welcome lower job openings—a relatively painless way to cool a hot job market and reduce pressure on companies to raise wages, which can feed inflation.

From January through March this year, the economy grew at an annual pace of just 1.4%, slowest since spring 2022. Consumer spending, which accounts for around 70% of U.S. economic activity, e xpanded just 1.5% after advancing at a pace of more than 3% in each of the last two quarters of 2023.

The Labor Department is expected to report Friday that employers added 190,000 jobs last month, down from 272,000 in May, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet. Unemployment is forecast to stay low at 4%.

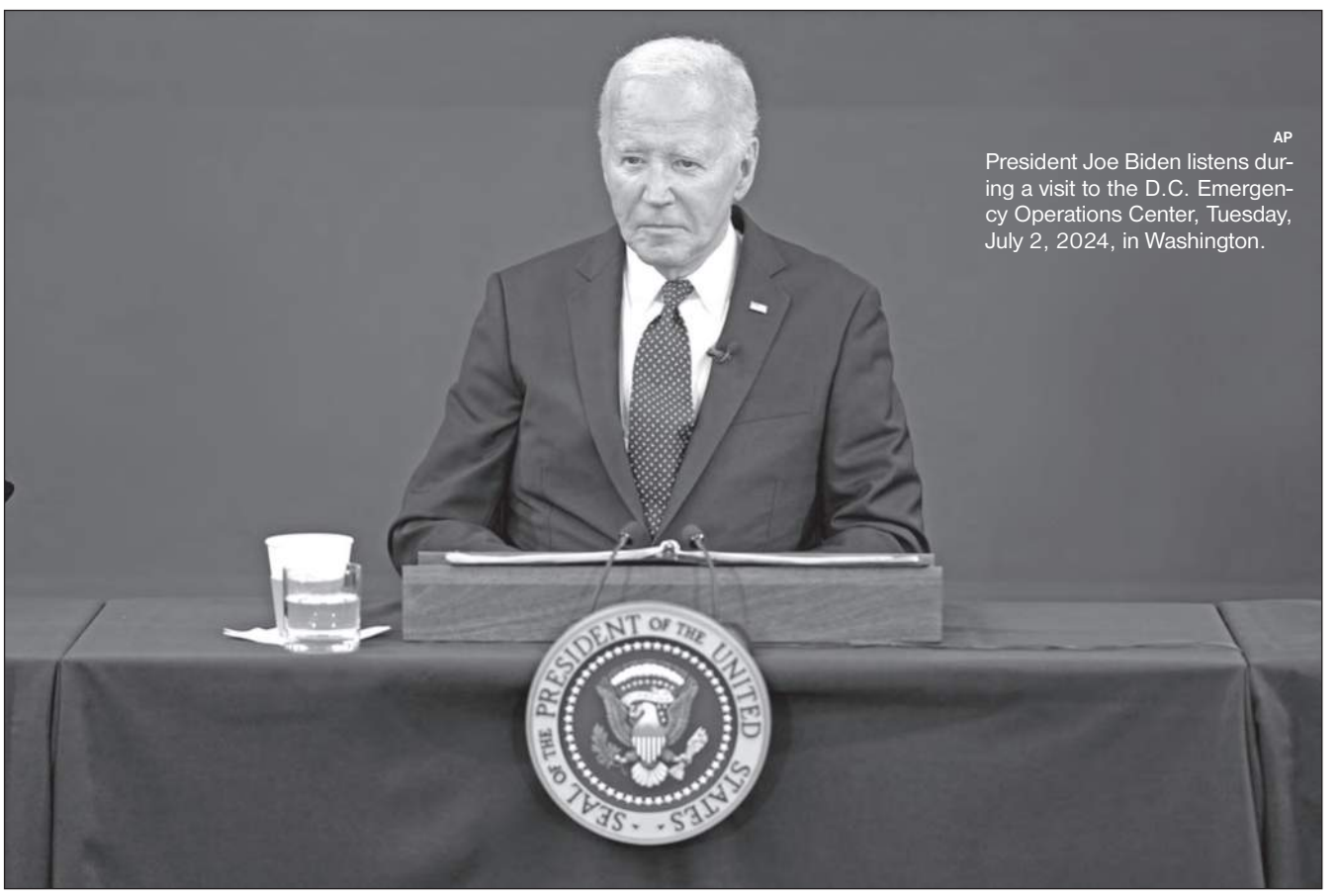
High interest rates have helped bring inflation down closer to the Fed's target of 2% a year from a four-decade high 9.1% in June 2022. Progress on containing price increases is expected to allow the central bank to start cutting rates. Wall Street investors are expecting the first rate cut at the Fed's September meeting.

Speaking at a conference in Portugal Tuesday, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that progress toward lower inflation appears to have resumed after stalling earlier this year. But he said the Fed needed to see more evidence before it cuts rates.

Nation

AS WHITE HOUSE PUSHES BACK ON PRESSURE TO LEAVE RACE

Biden plans public events blitz



AP
President Joe Biden listens during a visit to the D.C. Emergency Operations Center, Tuesday, July 2, 2024, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House announced Tuesday that President Joe Biden will meet with congressional leaders and Democratic governors, sit for a network TV interview and hold a press conference in the coming days, a blitz designed to push back against growing pressure for the 81-year-old president to step aside in the 2024 race after his disastrous performance in last week's debate with Republican Donald Trump.

"We really want to turn the page on this," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said of the intensifying calls for Biden to bow out of the race. She added that the president had no intention of stepping aside, characterizing his debate failings as simply evidence of "a bad night" when he had a cold.

During a campaign event later Tuesday, Biden blamed it on jet lag after two back-to-back European trips. "I wasn't very smart. I decided to travel around the world a couple of times," he said. The president added that he "didn't listen to my staff" about travel and joked that he "fell asleep on stage" during the debate.

But Democratic leaders were increasingly signaling that they were not buying White House attempts to brush off Biden's performance in the face-off as a momentary lapse, after he gave halting and nonsensical answers and trailed off at times.

There's growing anxiety among donors and on Capitol Hill about the president's ability to win come November, according to people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations. And it's not helping that Biden has yet to reach out to legislators, who are growing increasingly frustrated that the White House has not satisfactorily explained how such a seasoned politician could have performed so badly.

Questions swirled about whether this was an isolated incident or part of a pattern. Two people who spend time with Biden behind closed doors described him similarly: He was often very sharp and focused. But he also had moments, particularly later in the evening, when his thoughts seemed jumbled and he'd trail off mid-sentence or seem confused. Those people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the president's interactions behind closed doors.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told MSNBC that she believes "it is a legitimate question" whether Biden's performance was just "an episode or is this a condition."

"When people ask that question, it's legitimate—of both candidates," Pelosi said.

But she did not go so far as to ask him to step aside. Pelosi said she had not spoken with Biden since the debate, but she emphasized that the president is on "top of his game, in terms of knowing the issues and what is at stake." And a spokesperson later said Pelosi had full confidence in Biden and "looks forward to attending his inauguration on January 20, 2025."

Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas became the first Democratic member of Congress to publicly call for Biden to step down. Doggett, who is 77 and has been a fixture on Capitol Hill since the mid-1990s, said Biden should "make the painful and difficult decision" to withdraw, citing the president's inability to "effectively defend his many accomplishments" in the debate.

Rep. Jared Golden, a moderate Democrat from Maine, said in a local newspaper column Tuesday that the debate "didn't rattle me as it has others, because the outcome of this election has been clear to me for months: While I don't plan to vote for him, Donald Trump is going to win. And I'm OK with that."

Opinion conferring broad immunity could embolden Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—In her dissent from a Supreme Court opinion that afforded former President Donald Trump broad immunity, Justice Sonia Sotomayor pondered the potential doomsday consequences: A president could pocket a bribe for a pardon, stage a military coup to retain power, order the killing of a rival by the Navy SEAL Team Six—and be protected from prosecution for all of it.

The scenarios may sound part of an apocalyptic future. But the plain reality of the 6-3 opinion is that it ensures presidents have a wide berth to carry out official acts without fear of being criminally charged and it could embolden Trump, who was impeached twice and faced four separate prosecutions over the last year and a half, as he eyes a return to the White House.

The outcome is significant because Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has been public about wanting to pursue the same boundary-obliterating conduct that defined his four years in office, spawned criminal and congressional investigations and raised thorny questions about the scope of presidential immunity that were resolved largely in his favor in Monday's landmark opinion.

"Over the long term, I think it will broaden what presidents are willing to do because they will see that there's a gray zone that the Supreme Court laid out," said Princeton University professor Julian Zelizer, who studies political history. The effect of the opinion, he said, will be to "broaden the scope of what's going to be permissible" and give presidents sufficient cover for acts that may veer into criminality.

The opinion authored by Chief Justice John Roberts did not dismiss the case charging Trump with plotting to overturn the 2020 presidential race, as Trump had desired, and it left intact the long-established principle that there's no immunity for purely personal acts. However, it significantly narrowed the case by finding that presidents enjoy absolute immunity for their core constitutional duties and are entitled to the presumption of immunity for other official acts.

"This is a full-throated endorsement of the unitary executive theory" in a dramatic way, said Cornell University law professor Michael Dorf, referring to the theory that the U.S. Constitution vests extraordinary power in the presidency.

From a practical perspective, the court's opinion means that the trial judge, Tanya Chutkan, must now engage in further fact-finding analysis to determine how much of the conduct alleged in the indictment from special counsel Jack Smith can remain part of the case.

Importantly for Trump, the one area the conservative majority said was unquestionably off-limits for prosecutors was his command of the Justice Department. That includes his directives to department leadership after the 2020 election to conduct what prosecutors said were "sham" investigations into bogus claims of election fraud, as well as his attempts to use the department's authority to advance his fruitless efforts to remain in power.

Judge delays Trump's hush money sentencing until at least September after high court immunity ruling

In a major reprieve for former President Donald Trump, sentencing for his hush money convictions was postponed Tuesday until at least September—if ever—as the judge agreed to weigh the possible impact of a new Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity.

Trump had been scheduled to face sentencing July 11, just before the Republicans' nominating convention, on his New York convictions on felony charges of falsifying business records. He denies any wrongdoing.

The postponement sets the sentencing for Sept. 18 at the earliest—if it happens at all, since Trump's lawyers are arguing that the Supreme Court ruling merits not only delaying the sentencing but tossing out his conviction.

"The impact of the Immunity Ruling is a loud and clear signal for Justice in the United States," Trump crowed on his Truth Social media site after the sentencing was delayed.

Using all capital letters, he claimed the Supreme Court's decision netted him "total exoneration" in this and other criminal cases he faces.

There was no immediate comment on the sentencing postponement from Manhattan prosecutors, who brought the hush money case.

Though the Sept. 18 date is well after this month's Republican National Convention, where Trump is set formally to accept the party's nomination for president in this year's race, it is far closer to Election Day, which could put the issue top-of-mind for voters just as they seriously tune into the race. Because of absentee voting timelines in certain states, some voters may already have cast ballots before anyone knows whether the former president will have to spend time in jail or on home confinement.

The delay caps a string of political and legal wins for Trump in recent days, including the Supreme Court's immunity ruling and a debate widely seen as a disaster for Democratic President Joe Biden.

The immunity decision all but closed the door on the possibility that Trump could face trial in his 2020 election interference case in Washington before this November's vote. The timeline in itself is a victory for the former president, who has sought to delay his four criminal cases past the balloting.

An appeals court recently paused a separate election interference case against Trump, in Georgia; no trial date has been set. His federal classified documents case in Florida remains bogged down by pretrial disputes that have resulted in an indefinite cancelation of the trial date.

Monday's Supreme Court ruling granted broad immunity protections to presidents, while also restricting prosecutors from citing any official acts as evidence in trying to prove a president's unofficial actions violated the law.

World

AFTER GAZA CEASE-FIRE

Hezbollah's deputy leader says group would stop fighting with Israel

BEIRUT (AP)—The deputy leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said Tuesday the only sure path to a cease-fire on the Lebanon-Israel border is a full cease-fire in Gaza.

"If there is a cease-fire in Gaza, we will stop without any discussion," Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, said in an interview with The Associated Press at the group's political office in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Hezbollah's participation in the Israel-Hamas war has been as a "support front" for its ally, Hamas, Kassem said, and "if the war stops, this military support will no longer exist."

But, he said, if Israel scales back its military operations without a formal cease-fire agreement and full withdrawal from Gaza, the implications for the Lebanon-Israel border conflict are less clear.

"If what happens in Gaza is a mix between cease-fire and no cease-fire, war and no war, we can't answer (how we would react) now, because we don't know its shape, its results, its impacts," Kassem said during a 40-minute interview.

The war began on Oct. 7 after Hamas militants invaded southern Israel, killing some 1,200—mostly civilians—and kidnapping roughly 250. Israel responded with an air and ground assault that has caused widespread devastation and killed more than 37,900 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

AP

Hezbollah's deputy leader Sheik Naim Kassem, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon, Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Talks of a cease-fire in Gaza have faltered in recent weeks, raising fears of an escalation on the Lebanon-Israel front. Hezbollah has traded near-daily strikes with Israeli forces along their border over the past nine months.

The low-level conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border. In northern Israel, 16 soldiers and 11 civilians have been killed; in Lebanon, more than 450 people—mostly fighters but also dozens of civilians—have been killed.

Hamas has demanded an end to the war in Gaza, and not just a pause in fighting, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to make such a commitment until Israel realizes its goals of destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities and brings home the roughly 120 hostages still held by Hamas.

Last month, the Israeli army said it had "approved and validated" plans for an offensive in Lebanon if no diplomatic solution was reached to the ongoing clashes. Any decision to launch such an operation would have to come from the country's political leadership.

Some Israeli officials have said they are seeking a diplomatic solution to the standoff and hope to avoid war. At the same time, they have warned that the scenes of destruction seen in Gaza will be repeated in Lebanon if war breaks out.

China, PH hold crucial talks to ease tensions after their intense clash in disputed waters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China and the Philippines held a crucial meeting Tuesday to try to ease mounting tensions following their worst confrontation in the disputed South China Sea that sparked fears of a wider conflict that could involve the United States.

There was no mention of any major agreement, however, after the daylong meeting in Manila that could prevent a repeat of the June 17 clash at Second Thomas Shoal which caused injuries to Filipino navy personnel and damaged two military boats.

The shoal off the northwestern Philippines has emerged as the most dangerous flashpoint in the disputed waters, which China claims virtually in its entirety. Chinese coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships have surrounded the Philippine marines aboard a grounded ship to prevent delivery of food and other supplies to Manila's territorial outpost.

The Chinese and Philippine delegations "affirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement Tuesday night. "There was substantial progress on developing measures to manage the situation at sea, but significant differences remain."

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro told her Chinese counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong, "that the Philippines will be relentless in protecting its interests and upholding its sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction" in the South China Sea, according to the Philippine side.

The Chinese government did not immediately issue any statement about the talks.

An agreement was signed to improve communications during emergencies at sea and both sides agreed to continue talks on enhancing ties between their coast guards but no details were provided. Another confidence-building plan was the convening of an academic forum among scientists and academics to improve marine scientific cooperation.

Ahead of the meeting, the Philippines planned to formally ask China's delegation to return at least seven rifles that Chinese coast guard personnel seized during the June 17 faceoff at the shoal and pay for damage, a Philippine official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the sensitive matter publicly.

The Asian neighbors first agreed to hold what they call the Bicameral Consultation Mechanism meetings in 2017 to peacefully manage their conflicts. But despite the on-and-off talks, the confrontations have persisted especially under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who, unlike his predecessor, has nurtured closer defense ties with the United States as a counterweight to China.

WORLD BRIEFS

Taiwan says China told Taiwan's coast guard to not interfere in the detention of Taiwanese boat crew

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan said Wednesday that China ordered Taiwan's coast guard against interfering in the detention of a Taiwanese fishing boat in what is seen as an increasing Chinese attempt to encroach on Taiwanese territory.

Taiwan's coast guard also repeated its call for the release of the boat and its crew members who were taken from waters off the Taiwanese-controlled island of Kinmen just off the Chinese coast on Tuesday night. That call is complicated by China's refusal to communicate with Taiwan's government. Spokesman for Taiwan's coast guard Hsieh Ching-chin said the boat was not in Chinese waters when it was boarded by Chinese agents and steered to a port in the Chinese province of Fujian. The Dajinman 88 was intercepted by two Chinese vessels, and Taiwan dispatched three vessels to help but the one that got close to the fishing boat was blocked by three Chinese boats and told not to interfere, the coast guard's initial statement said. The pursuit was called off to avoid escalating the conflict after Taiwan's maritime authorities detected that four more Chinese vessels were moving closer, the statement added. The boat had a captain and five other crew members, according to Taiwan's official Central News Agency. The crew are Taiwanese and Indonesian. The vessel was just over 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Jinjiang in mainland China when it was boarded, Taiwanese authorities said. China claims self-governing Taiwan as its territory and says the island must come under its control.

Stampede at religious event in India kills at least 116 people, mostly women and children

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Thousands of people at a religious gathering in India rushed to leave a makeshift tent, setting off a stampede Tuesday that killed at least 116 people and injured scores, officials said. It was not immediately clear what triggered the panic following an event with a Hindu guru known locally as Bhole Baba. Local news reports cited authorities who said heat and suffocation in the tent could have been a factor. Video of the aftermath showed the structure appeared to have collapsed. At least 116 people died, most of them women and children, said Prashant Kumar, the director-general of police in northern India's state of Uttar Pradesh, where the stampede occurred. More than 80 others were injured and admitted to hospitals, senior police officer Shalabh Mathur said. "People started falling one upon another, one upon another. Those who were crushed died. People there pulled them out," witness Shakuntala Devi told the Press Trust of India news agency. Relatives wailed in distress as bodies of the dead, placed on stretchers and covered in white sheets, lined the grounds of a local hospital. A bus that arrived there carried more victims, whose bodies were lying on the seats inside. Deadly stampedes are relatively common around Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather in small areas with shoddy infrastructure and few safety measures.

UN experts say Russia violated international law by imprisoning *Wall Street Journal* reporter

GENEVA (AP)—United Nations human rights experts say Russia violated international law by imprisoning Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and should release him "immediately." The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, made up of independent experts convened by the U.N.'s top human rights body, said there was a "striking lack of any factual or legal substantiation" for spying charges leveled against Gershkovich, 32. The five-member group said Gershkovich's United States nationality has been a factor in his detention, and as a result the case against him was discriminatory. Matthew Gillett, the working group's chair, said its opinion was grounded in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was adopted in 1966 and nearly all U.N. member countries have ratified. "The covenant is something that Russia has freely signed up to and accepted the obligations under, and therefore as a matter of international law, it is obliged to implement the provisions of the covenant," he said in an interview. Gillett said Russia should provide Gershkovich "proper reparations" for holding him for over a year in detention without a legitimate basis.

Gershkovich went on trial behind closed doors on Wednesday in the Russian city Yekaterinburg, where he was arrested on March 29, 2023, while on a reporting trip on espionage charges that he, his employer and the U.S. government vehemently deny. The U.N. group said in its findings that because the detention of Gershkovich was arbitrary, no trial should take place. The group cannot compel any response from Russia, and is mandated to look into cases in which countries violate international commitments that they make.

Life & Style

2 men arrested on public road within Oprah's Hawaii ranch

AP

In this image provided by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, two men are detained on June 21, 2024, in Kula, Hawaii.

KULA, Hawaii (AP)—Two men arrested last month on a public road within Oprah Winfrey 's property on the Hawaiian island of Maui are suspected of illegal night hunting, state officials said Monday.

The two Maui men, both 19, were arrested just before midnight on June 21 after officers found them using a hunting spotlight on a public road that runs through Winfrey's ranch in Kula, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources said in a news release.

While they were not caught actively hunting, officers found a loaded shotgun and a loaded rifle in the pair's truck, and Winfrey's ranch surrounds the road where they were stopped, the state said.

The men were arrested on suspicion of hunting on private lands without permission, not having a hunting license and other violations. One of them was also arrested for an unregistered semi-automatic rifle.

Invasive axis deer run rampant on Maui and other islands of Hawaii.

David Attenborough's colorful impact on Wimbledon and tennis: Yellow balls

AP

Sir David Attenborough and his wife Susan watch the defending champion Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Mark Lajal of Estonia in their first round match on Centre Court at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Monday, July 1, 2024.

LONDON (AP)—British naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough's visit to Wimbledon provided a vivid reminder of his impact on the sport: yellow balls.

With the advent of color TV and growing interest in tennis in the late 1960s, producers looked for ways to improve the viewing experience. Tennis balls were historically either black or white.

Attenborough, who worked for the BBC in the '60s when the broadcaster was transitioning to color, was one of the people who inspired the switch to yellow balls, the All England Club said Tuesday.

The 98-year-old Attenborough was a guest in the Royal Box at Centre Court on Monday when play started at the grass-court Grand Slam. England soccer great David Beckham was alongside him.

The International Tennis Federation introduced yellow balls into the rules of the sport in 1972 "as research had shown these balls to be more visible to television viewers."

Ironically, Wimbledon didn't make the switch until 1986. The official Wimbledon Compendium for that year noted: "Yellow balls were used for the first time, largely as the white balls were getting stained green on the grass, sometimes making them almost impossible to see on TV, where tennis was increasingly popular."

BTS member Jin expected to take part in Paris Olympics as a torchbearer from S. Korea

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jin, the oldest member of K-pop supergroup BTS, will be an Olympic torchbearer at the Paris games after recently completing his mandatory military service.

The 31-year-old singer is expected to represent South Korea in the torch relay in hopes of spreading the message of "harmony" and "peace," according to a statement. He finished his 18-month military service last month.

Jin along with the other torchbearers are scheduled to go across various historic sites of the host country. The specific schedule has not been disclosed.

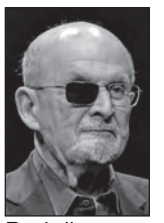
The torch relay began in April.

Jin began his military service at a front-line South Korean military boot camp in late 2022. His other group members—comprised of Jung Kook, V, Jimin, Suga, RM, and J-Hope—are currently serving their military duties.

A day after being released from military duty, Jin hosted the annual BTS debut anniversary celebration FESTA in Seoul with activities including trying out foods, performances and dance challenges.

Man accused of stabbing Salman Rushdie rejects plea deal involving terrorism charge

The man charged with stabbing author Salman Rushdie rejected a plea deal Tuesday that would have shortened his state prison term but exposed him to a federal terrorism-related charge, the suspect's lawyer said.



Rushdie

Hadi Matar, 26, has been held without bail since the 2022 attack, in which he is accused of stabbing Rushdie more than a dozen times and blinding him in one eye as the acclaimed writer was onstage, about to give a lecture at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York.

Matar's attorney, Nathaniel Barone, confirmed that Matar, who lived in Fairview, New Jersey, rejected the agreement Tuesday in Mayville, New York.

The agreement would have had Matar plead guilty in Chautauqua County to attempted murder in exchange for a maximum state prison sentence of 20 years, down from 25 years. It would have also required him to plead guilty to a federal charge of attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, which could result in an additional 20 years, attorneys said.

Rushdie, who detailed the attack and his recovery in a memoir, had spent years in hiding after the Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, in 1989 calling for his death over Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," which some Muslims consider blasphemous. The author reemerged into the public the late 1990s and has traveled freely over the past two decades.

Mother, daughter spar over parenting styles

DEAR ABBY: I am raising a granddaughter. We went to visit her aunt and cousin and had a nice day until my granddaughter told her aunt she should let her 5-year-old pick out her own clothes. My daughter became enraged and told me I had to teach my granddaughter to respect adults. I told my daughter I didn't think she should tell me how to raise this child.

My daughter then began yelling and cursing and threw us out of her house. My granddaughter was distraught after being yelled at even after she apologized.

I have thought for a couple of years that my daughter isn't mentally healthy. I will not expose my granddaughter to her aunt again. I would, however, like to maintain a connection with this daughter because I want a relationship with the 5-year-old. I'm willing to let this event go.

I know my daughter thinks this is all my fault and she did nothing wrong. She suffers from a number of delusions, some related to social media. It has not been possible to get her help. I have tried to encourage her husband, who is just trying to survive. I'm not quite sure what is the right thing to do. Please help.

ON EGGSHELLS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR ON EGGSHELLS: When your unstable daughter told you to teach your granddaughter to respect adults, you should not have reacted by fanning the flames. If you wish to have a relationship with the grandchild who lives with this daughter, apologize for the blow-up. It might also be wise to warn the granddaughter you're raising that her aunt is "sensitive" to parenting advice, not to offer it again and to limit her exposure.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Is it improper to decline a wedding reception invitation just because you do not wish to attend? I have received a "save the date" postcard from a co-worker's daughter for her wedding. I don't know this girl or her fiance, and I'm not particularly close to her mother.

Where we live, a gift of $150 per person is expected if you attend a wedding reception. My husband and I are on a tight budget, and a $300 gift would be a sacrifice. In addition, my husband would have to take time off work to attend and lose a night's income.

We attended her older daughter's wedding seven years ago, but enough is enough. This will never be reciprocated, as our children will not be marrying. If they did, I wouldn't invite my co-workers to their weddings. Can I decline the invitation by saying we are sorry, but we are unable to attend? Or is it mandatory that we attend?

DON'T WANT TO IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DON'T WANT TO: An invitation is not a command performance! Because you don't want to go, and because it would create a financial hardship, check "will not attend" on the RSVP card included with the invitation. It's that simple. Although you will not be obligated to spend $300, it would be nice if you sent the happy couple a card wishing them a long and happy marriage.

■■■

DEAR READERS: I wish you all a happy and healthy Fourth of July. Please drive carefully and celebrate safely.

P.S. Wishing a Happy, Heavenly Birthday to you, Mom! —LOVE, ABBY

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

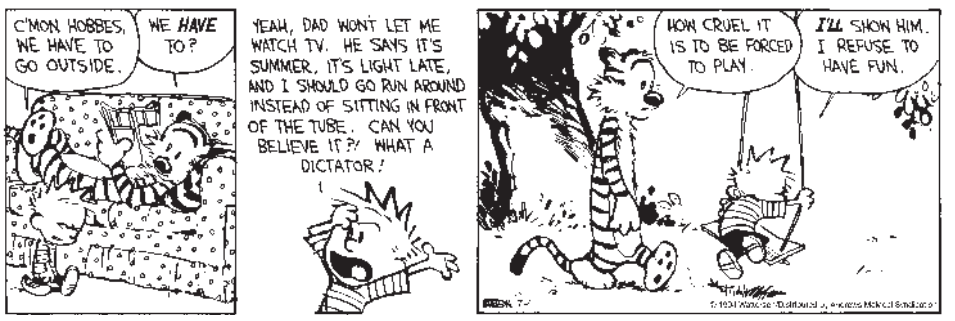
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

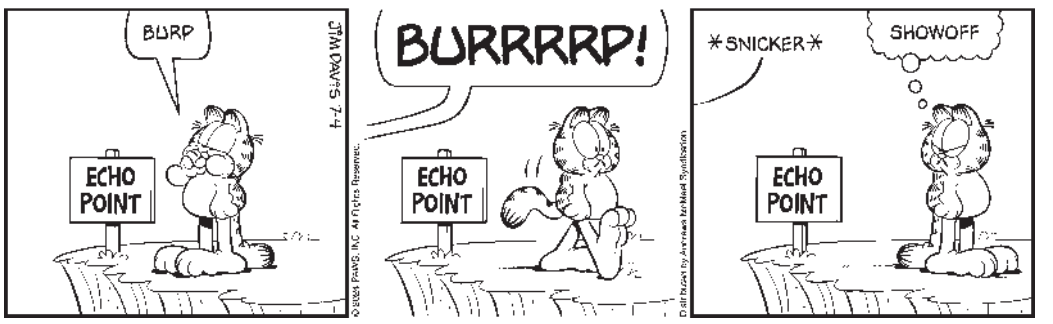
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


C'MON HOBBES, WE HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE.
WE HAVE TO?
YEAH, DAD WON'T LET ME WATCH TV. HE SAYS IT'S SUMMER, IT'S LIGHT LATE, AND I SHOULD GO RUN AROUND INSTEAD OF SITTING IN FRONT OF THE TUBE. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?! WHAT A DICTATOR!
HOW CRUEL IT IS TO BE FORCED TO PLAY.
I'LL SHOW HIM. I REFUSE TO HAVE FUN.

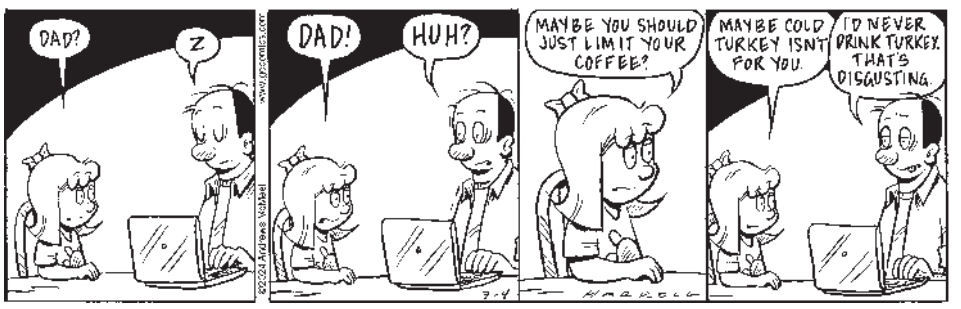
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



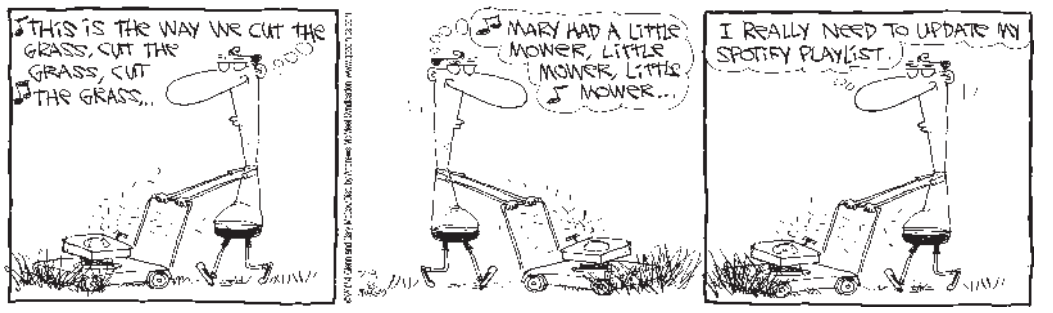
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS IS THE WAY WE CUT THE GRASS, CUT THE GRASS, CUT THE GRASS..
MARY HAD A LITTLE MOWER, LITTLE MOWER, LITTLE MOWER...
I REALLY NEED TO UPDATE MY SPOTIFY PLAYLIST.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chowder bit
5 Hide-away
9 Droop
12 River to the Seine
13 Rim
14 Bird (Pref.)
15 Royal title
17 Be a couch potato
18 Marriage contract, briefly
19 Ancient calculators
21 Tagged player
22 Cameroon neighbor
24 Indy event
27 Wall St. whiz
28 Novelist Brontë
31 Sports fig.
32 Soft toss
33 Billboards
34 Change
36 Have bills
37 Cager O'Neal, for short
38 Moppets
40 Yours truly
41 Light-headed
43 Most rational
47 Prune
48 React to July 4th fireworks
51 Chef Garten
52 Jog
53 "Como — usted?"
54 "Kinda" suffix
55 Curved molding
56 Take five

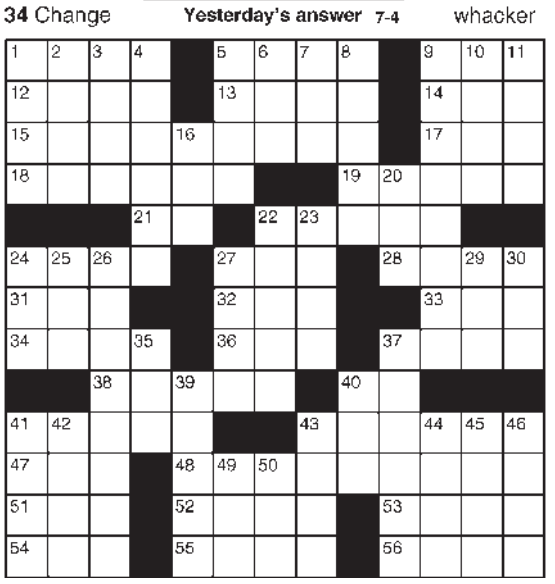
DOWN

1 Freebie
2 Tale teller
3 Queens stadium name
4 Ogre
5 Bound
6 Wd. modifier
7 Polish tennis star Swiatek
8 Detox center
9 Georgia's oldest city
10 With (Fr.)
11 Leslie Caron role
16 Boring routine
20 Large snake
22 Increases
23 French cleric
24 U.K. military fliers
25 Part of NATO
26 Nerve
27 Medicinal plant
29 Secret-protecting doc.
30 Atty.'s title
35 Alphabet end
37 Return address name
39 Japanese city
40 Fellow
41 552, in old Rome
42 Charged bits
43 Fill fully
44 Lighten
45 Pre-college exams
46 Yonder thing
49 Assoc.
50 Weed whacker

Solution time: 24 mins.

R	A	G	U	■	A	M	T	■	I	T	T	Y
I	D	O	L	■	N	I	A	■	S	E	R	A
F	O	O	T	W	O	R	K	■	R	A	U	L
E	S	P	R	I	T	■	E	N	A	M	E	L
■	■	■	A	C	H	■	A	F	E	W	■	■
L	A	W	■	K	E	G	■	L	L	C	Y	D
E	L	O	I	■	I	I	A	J	■	I	R	O	N
I	P	O	D	S	■	G	A	B	■	K	O	A
■	■	D	E	L	A	■	K	O	I	■	■	■
A	L	W	A	Y	S	■	A	R	O	M	A	S
R	O	O	T	■	T	I	R	E	W	O	R	K
E	I	R	E	■	O	R	I	■	A	N	I	I
A	S	K	S	■	R	E	A	■	N	A	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 7-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melanie Fiona, 41; Becki Newton, 46; Andrew Zimmern, 63; Geraldo Rivera, 81.

Happy Birthday: Go above and beyond the call of duty; the rewards will be yours. Let your uniqueness shine through, but don't let unrealistic expectations cost you. Budget wisely, and you'll have a winning combination for yourself. Change requires action, energy and common sense. Do your best, and you'll hit your mark and prosper. Charm will win favors and respect. Love and romance are favored. Your numbers are 3, 7, 23, 25, 33, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take better care of yourself and your possessions. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your generosity or kind heart. Put your energy into projects or pastimes that you find exhilarating. It's up to you to make opportunities, not wait for them to come to you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change what's necessary. Pay more attention to how you look and feel and what you can do to make your life less stressful. Focus on what's happening around you, and participate in events, activities or negotiations that will help you prosper. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put your energy behind your skills, experience and knowledge, and you'll gain acceptance and momentum in achieving your goals. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans or lead you astray with false information. Change depends on truth. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do what you love to do, and you'll do well. Don't let your dreams fall by the wayside. Take the initiative and share what you have to offer. Start small and use your passion to work toward a goal. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be open about how you feel and your intentions, and you'll change the dynamics of a relationship. Showing strength and courage will grab attention and get results. Pay attention, and you'll understand how someone feels about you or your situation. An explicit dialogue will be enlightening. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put your emotions aside, focus on facts and use common sense to sort through difficulties you encounter. Participate in an event that offers insight into a concern you have or stimulates your creative ideas, and it will help you sort through differences. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* An open mind will gather information and insight into how to proceed. Please don't rely on someone else to do the work, or you'll be left out when it counts the most. Consider what you enjoy doing most, and turn your attention and energy toward making it happen. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Satisfy your imagination and put your skills to good use. What you discover will help you adjust your life to satisfy your needs. Leave nothing to chance when dealing with matters that allow you to make money doing something that makes you feel passionate about. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Invest time and money in yourself. Explore the possibilities, and expand your options through networking and surrounding yourself with like-minded people. Do whatever it takes to discover your true potential. Talks will lead to opportunities; collect data and follow up. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Nurture essential relationships. Find out where you stand and adjust your intentions accordingly. Don't waste time on people or situations that cannot deliver. A change at home should make your space functional and ease stress. An unusual or unexpected visit will spark your imagination. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refrain from laboring over things you cannot change. Focus on what's doable and will promote comfort and joy. Put your energy where it counts, and apply pressure to people who can help you reach your goal. Being direct will save you time and money and gain you respect. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Nothing can stop you once you start. Put your head down and drive forward with confidence, willpower and a winner's mindset. Don't feel that you must stick to the norm when your uniqueness separates you from the competition you encounter. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, creative and passionate. You are proactive and influential.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	8	6	1	3				5
		7			8			
	1		9	7		6	4	
		8		4				9
						2	3	7
1	3		2				6	
3	9				1		8	
	7							6
	6		4			9		3

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/4

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	1	4	7	5	6	8	3	2
2	5	6	4	8	3	9	1	7
3	8	7	9	2	1	5	4	6
8	2	3	1	4	7	6	9	5
4	7	9	6	3	5	2	8	1
1	6	5	2	9	8	4	7	3
6	3	8	5	1	4	7	2	9
5	4	2	3	7	9	1	6	8
7	9	1	8	6	2	3	5	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FIREWORKS BLAST OFF ON JULY 4! **Solution: 8 letters**

Y	T	N	G	I	E	R	E	V	O	S	T	A	R	S
A	R	C	R	I	G	H	T	S	A	M	O	H	T	G
D	S	O	E	E	E	I	P	E	L	P	P	A	Y	O
E	R	R	T	L	U	Q	F	O	U	R	T	H	L	D
C	E	N	B	C	E	N	U	A	C	E	K	L	U	T
N	G	O	I	Y	I	B	I	A	S	P	C	L	J	O
E	R	N	K	L	J	V	R	O	L	R	U	I	E	H
D	U	T	Y	I	K	O	A	A	N	I	L	R	F	N
N	B	H	A	M	P	N	H	C	T	D	T	G	F	E
E	R	E	D	A	Ⓢ	I	A	N	A	E	O	Y	E	E
P	A	C	I	F	S	Ⓑ	Z	R	A	T	P	Y	R	T
E	V	O	L	T	A	R	Ⓘ	Z	F	T	I	D	S	R
D	E	B	O	F	E	D	E	Ⓡ	A	L	I	O	O	I
N	R	R	H	R	E	V	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	H
I	Y	R	O	L	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T

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Apple Pie, Bravery, Burgers, Celebrate, Corn on the Cob, Equality, Family, Federal, Fourth, Franklin, Glory, Government, Grill, History, Holiday, Hot Dogs, Independence Day, Jefferson, John, July, Nation, Pizza, Potluck, Pride, Reunion, Revolution, Ribs, Rights, Sovereignty, Stars, States, Thirteen, Thomas, Vacation, Victory

Yesterday's Answer: Smithfield

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Mitchell agrees to $150.3M contract extension with Cavs

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell (45) celebrates an offensive foul against the Orlando Magic during the second half in Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, April 20, 2024, in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND (AP)—Donovan Mitchell isn't taking his talents anywhere. Not yet, anyway.

The five-time All-Star guard has agreed to a three-year, $150.3 million contract extension with the Cleveland Cavaliers, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Mitchell's choice to commit to the Cavaliers had been expected for some time. Still, there was plenty of anxiety inside Cleveland's fanbase, which cannot forget LeBron James leaving the franchise as a free agent in 2010 for Miami.

The 27-year-old Mitchell spent much of this past season saying he's happy playing with Cleveland, which acquired him in a 2022 trade from Utah. The Cavs have made the playoffs in both seasons with Mitchell, one of the league's best all-around guards.

He agreed to the extension in Los Angeles over the weekend, according to the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the NBA prohibits deals from being announced until its moratorium ends on Saturday. ESPN was first to report Mitchell's agreement.

The extension includes a $54 million player option for the 2027-28 season, the person said. Mitchell was under contract for one more season. Technically, Mitchell's new deal means he can become a free agent in three years, raising the Cavs' urgency to compete for a title.

The new deal also allows Mitchell to reach a 10-year criteria, making him eligible for a next extension worth $380 million.

Shortly after word of Mitchell's extension emerged, he posted a video on social media from the film "The Wolf of Wall Street" in which actor Leonardo DiCaprio profanely announces to his colleagues, "I'm not leaving."

Mitchell also went on Instagram to reiterate his commitment to Cleveland with a video of him driving and discussing his extension.

"All year I've been saying the same (stuff)," Mitchell said while driving. "I'm saying how much I like it every day. It's like, 'Oh, he going to do this. He going to do that.' I don't get it. I don't understand it. I think it's hilarious.

"It's what it is, but I'm glad I got this (stuff) done, man. Glad I got this (stuff) done in Cleveland. Now to get focused. You know what I'm saying? Let's get to it."

Mitchell was in LA hosting his "Spida Elite" basketball camp for some of the nation's top high school guards. He was visited by Cavs president of basketball operations Koby Altman and Cavs coach Kenny Atkinson, who was formally introduced by the team at a news conference on Monday.

Atkinson, who was Golden State's top assistant the past three seasons, said he and Mitchell chatted mostly about family during their time together. Altman said Mitchell reaffirmed his commitment to the Cavs.

"We feel good about Donovan," Altman said Monday. "He's in a great space mentally. He's healthy. Really enjoyed the fact that him and Kenny could sit down and talk about the future, talk about the team.

"He's invested. He's really invested in what we're doing. Hopefully soon we'll have more of a decisive answer on that for you, but he's been great. He's been super involved and super collaborative and very, very much pro-Cleveland."

The Cavs' bold move—they traded three unprotected first-round picks, forward Lauri Markkanen and guard Collin Sexton to Utah—to get Mitchell two years ago was a surprise.

It appeared he was on his way to play for his hometown New York Knicks before Cleveland swooped in. Mitchell's arrival accelerated the Cavs' rebuild, which began when James left as a free agent for the second time in 2018 for the Lakers.

Mitchell averaged 26.6 points, 6.1 assists and 5.1 rebounds this past season, but he was limited to just 55 games because of a left knee injury. Mitchell was slowed by the injury in the playoffs and pushed through before sitting out Cleveland's final two games in the Eastern Conference semifinals with a calf injury.

The Cavs were eliminated in five games by the eventual champion Boston Celtics and fired coach J.B. Bickerstaff a week later.

In two seasons with Cleveland, Mitchell has averaged 27.5 points, 5.2 assists and 4.6 rebounds. He scored a career-high 71 in his first season in a game against Chicago.

Atkinson understands his charge is to get the most out of Cleveland's "Core 4" of players—Mitchell, guard Darius Garland, forward Evan Mobley and center Jarrett Allen. He also believes there's another level to Mitchell's game and wants to make him one of the league's top five players.

"Why not?" Atkinson said. "With the skill level and the athleticism and the human being, I don't see why we can't."

Thompson leaving Warriors to join Mavericks, AP sources say

DALLAS (AP)—Klay Thompson has taken off his Golden State jersey for the last time. And the Warriors say they're going to retire it to commemorate his time with them.

Thompson is moving on from the Warriors, with the four-time league champion agreeing to join the Western Conference champion Dallas Mavericks and change franchises for the first time in his 13-year NBA career, two people with knowledge of the decision said Monday.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the multiteam deal which, as currently constructed, will be executed as the sign-and-trade of a three-year, $50 million contract involving the Warriors, Mavericks and Charlotte Hornets, said the people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been announced.

Without mentioning Dallas—by league rule, they technically cannot acknowledge any part of the trade yet—the Warriors released a statement in tribute to Thompson on Monday night, saying they "can't overstate Klay Thompson's incredible and legendary contributions" to the team and that "the amount of joy and happiness that Klay provided Warriors fans ... cannot be minimized."

"His penchant for delivering in pressurized situations on the biggest stage, including many Game 6 heroics, has helped define a career," the Warriors said. "Klay's legacy will live on forever and we look forward to the day we can retire his #11 jersey at Chase Center, where he will join a host of Warriors immortals, including those who helped shape this recent dynasty—himself included."

Thompson is sixth on the NBA's all-time 3-pointers made list with 2,481, behind Reggie Miller (2,560), Damian Lillard (2,607), James Harden (2,940), Ray Allen (2,973) and Thompson's now-former "Splash Brother" with the Warriors, Stephen Curry, and his 3,747 career makes from beyond the arc.

Curry posted 30 photos to Instagram on Tuesday celebrating his years together with Thompson, then capped the thread with a message. "Gonna miss you (at)klaythompson," Curry wrote. "Even though we won't finish the journey together, what we did will never be done again. Couldn't have imagined a better run with you and (Draymond Green). Changed the whole Bay Area. Changed the way the game is played. Killa Klay at the center of it all. Thank you for everything bro. Go enjoy playing basketball and doing what you do."

Curry signed off the note with, "Splash Bros 4 life my guy."

There were indications last season that Thompson and the Warriors might be headed toward a breakup.

Thompson came off the bench 14 times—not much in the grand scheme of things considering he played 77 games, but those were his first appearances as a reserve since his rookie season of 2011-12. He shot 38.7% from 3-point range, the second-worst rate of his career. He averaged 17.9 points, the third-lowest total of his career. He wasn't always in the finishing lineup and the season—and his Warriors career—ended with a 0-for-10 shooting performance against Sacramento in a play-in tournament loss.

Thompson—a five-time All-Star and two-time All-NBA selection who missed two entire seasons with injuries—took a long look around the court after that game, soaking in the scene just in case it would be his final time playing with the Warriors. Turns out, it was. And now he'll join a Dallas team that just went to the NBA Finals as a shooter brought in to help Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving.

"We thank Klay for his contributions and wish him the best as another chapter in his journey is written," the Warriors said.

The Hornets were planning to acquire guard Josh Green as part of the deal, giving up two second-round draft picks. The 15th overall pick in the 2020 draft, Green has spent all four of his NBA seasons with the Mavericks and averaged 8.2 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists this past season.

The league's moratorium on signings and most other offseason movement will be lifted on Saturday.

Maxey, Harris, Hartenstein land deals

They were all undervalued on some level when they entered the NBA. None was a lottery pick, some weren't even first-round picks and they didn't have the label of can't-miss prospects.

That was then. Monday was a very different story for Tyrese Maxey, Derrick White, Isaiah Hartenstein, Tobias Harris, Isaiah Joe and Aaron Wiggins—who are about to sign deals worth a combined $565 million.

All were confirmed to the AP by people with knowledge of the negotiations for the players involved.

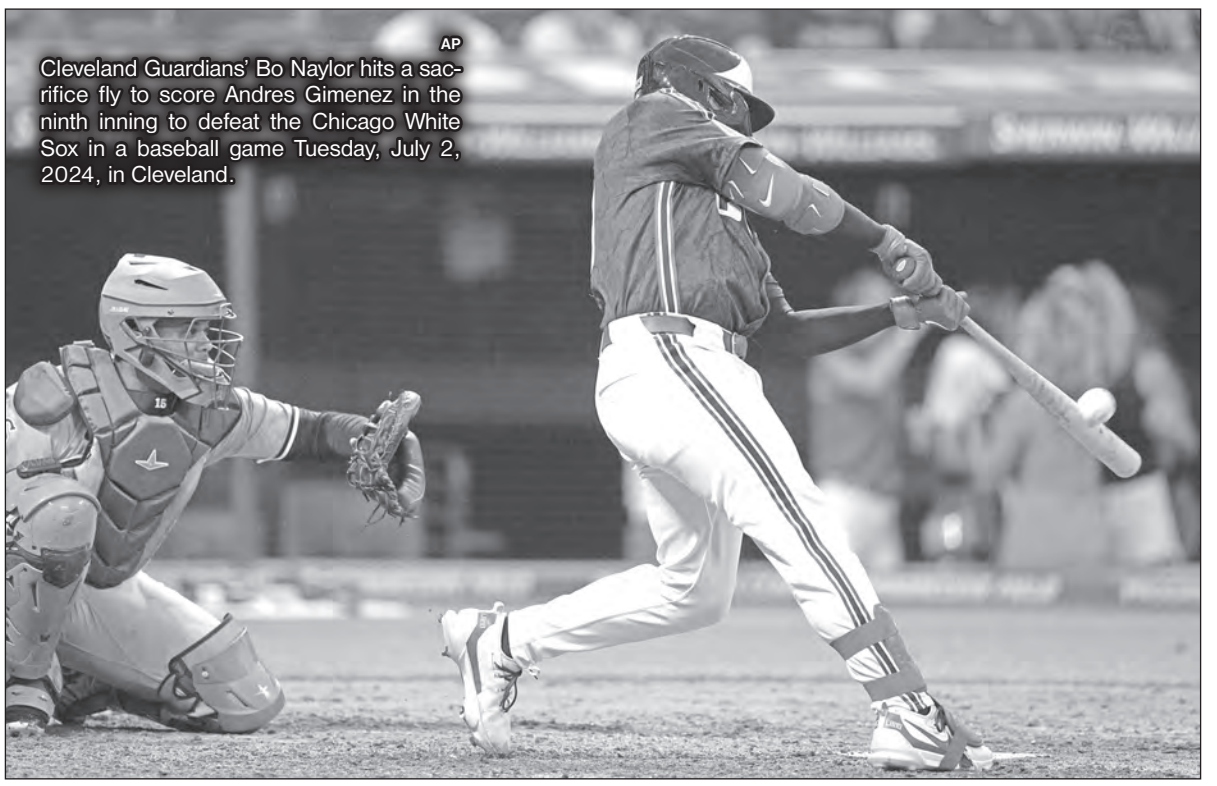
Maxey, an All-Star this past season, agreed in principle to a five-year, $204 million extension that keeps him with the Philadelphia 76ers and set to play alongside Joel Embiid and soon-to-be-signed Paul George.

The 76ers, like the rest of the league, are chasing the Boston Celtics, who made a big move by agreeing with guard Derrick White on a four-year extension worth around $125 million. White averaged 15.2 points and 5.2 assists for the NBA champions this past season.

Hartenstein, a center coming off a breakout year, is leaving New York for Oklahoma City on an $87 million, three-year deal that includes an option. The Thunder—the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference this past season—also finalized extensions with Joe ($48 million) and Wiggins ($47 million).

And Harris is going to Detroit on a two-year deal worth $52 million, a move first reported by ESPN and one that will give the young Pistons an experienced veteran in the room as they continue their rebuild under newly hired coach J.B. Bickerstaff.

Naylor's sac fly in 9th sends Guardians to win over lowly White Sox


AP
Cleveland Guardians' Bo Naylor hits a sacrifice fly to score Andres Gimenez in the ninth inning to defeat the Chicago White Sox in a baseball game Tuesday, July 2, 2024, in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND (AP)—Pinch-hitter Bo Naylor delivered a sacrifice fly to center field with one out in the ninth inning, sending the Cleveland Guardians to a 7-6 win over the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday night.

Andrés Giménez opened the ninth with a single off Michael Kopech (2-7), went to second on a groundout to first and took third on a wild pitch by the right-hander.

Naylor, who has bumped his average over .200 by hitting .304 in his last 15 games, then lifted a 3-2 pitch deep enough to score Giménez without a throw from center fielder Luis Robert Jr.

Rookie Daniel Schneemann and Tyler Freeman hit two-run homers for the Guardians, who won their seventh straight at Progressive Field and improved MLB's best home record to 27-9.

CARDINALS 7, PIRATES 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nolan Gorman hit his second career grand slam, and St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

Matt Carpenter dropped a soft single into left to load the bases with no outs in the fourth inning. Gorman followed with his 17th homer of the season, a 415-foot drive to left-center on a 1-2 sweeper from Mitch Keller (9-5).

Gorman hit his previous grand slam in a 14-5 win against the Arizona Diamondbacks on April 19, 2023.

Cardinals starter Kyle Gibson (6-3) gave up four runs, all in the fifth, and five hits in five innings. He struck out eight and walked one.

RED SOX 8, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Kutter Crawford gave up three hits and one run over six solid innings, Ceddanne Rafaela and Jarren Duran homered and Boston beat Miami.

Masataka Yoshida had three hits and Rafael Devers singled twice and drove in two runs for the Red Sox. Each player in Boston's lineup had at least one hit.

Crawford (4-7) struck out seven. It was the right-hander's sixth consecutive start of at least six innings and his 12th this season.

BLUE JAYS 7, ASTROS 6

TORONTO (AP)—George Springer hit a three-run home run against his former team, Spencer Horwitz added a solo homer and Toronto held on to beat Houston.

Yordan Alvarez homered and scored twice as Houston almost came back from a 7-0 deficit, but the Astros lost for just the second time in their last 12 games.

José Berríos (8-6) pitched five innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time since a three-start winning streak between April 8 and 20. The right-hander allowed five runs and five hits.

METS 7, NATIONALS 2, 10 INNINGS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Brandon Nimmo had two RBIs and the New York Mets beat Washington for their second consecutive extra-innings victory.

Nimmo, who cut his forehead when he fainted and fell Sunday night, entered in the fourth inning after Harrison Bader was pulled following a collision with the wall in right-center field. In the eighth, he drove in Francisco Lindor for a tying RBI single, and then was part of a barrage of hits against Robert Garcia (0-3) once the game went to extras.

As part of a five-run 10th, José Iglesias doubled to put the Mets ahead, Nimmo also doubled and Pete Alonso crushed his 18th homer. Lindor homered earlier for New York's first run of the game.

REDS 5, YANKEES 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Elly De La Cruz tripled and homered in his first game at Yankee Stadium, helping the Cincinnati overcome Aaron Judge's major league-leading 32nd home run in a victory over New York.

Will Benson and De La Cruz hit two-run homers in a four-run fifth as the Reds built a 5-0 lead over the Yankees, who have lost 11 of their last 15 games.

Judge homered in the seventh off Sam Moll for his third hit. He leads the major leagues in batting average (.321), homers and RBIs (83).

De La Cruz, appearing in his 183rd big league game, has tripled and homered together five times, matching Ted Williams for the most since 1901 in a player's first 185 games.

TWINS 5, TIGERS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Manny Margot and Carlos Correa went deep to keep Minnesota's club-record home run streak going at 20 games, and the Twins beat Detroit.

Byron Buxton scored the go-ahead run in the seventh with a head-first dive into home plate after leading off the inning with a double, and Royce Lewis hit a two-run double off Tigers ace Tarik Skubal before departing with tightness in his left groin muscle.

After rookie Simeon Woods Richardson pitched two outs into the sixth to match Skubal, who has quietly become one of the most dominant pitchers in the majors, the Twins got shutdown relief from Jorge Alcala (2-3), Griffin Jax in the eighth and closer Jhoan Duran in a perfect ninth for his 13th save in 14 attempts.

GIANTS 5, BRAVES 3

ATLANTA (AP)—Jorge Soler and LaMonte Wade Jr. hit back-to-back homers to help San Francisco beat Atlanta Braves.

Heliot Ramos also went deep as San Francisco won for the sixth time in eight games. Mike Yastrzemski went 2 for 2 in his return from a strained left oblique.

Hayden Birdsong (1-0) pitched five innings of two-run ball in his first big league win. The right-hander struck out five and walked two in his second major league start.

Camilo Doval earned his 15th save with a perfect ninth inning.

PHILLIES 6, CUBS 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Trea Turner hit two long home runs, and the major league-leading Philadelphia hung on to beat the struggling Chicago Cubs.

The Phillies were rolling along with a 6-1 lead before the Cubs made things interesting in the ninth. José Ruiz came in and gave up singles to Michael Busch and Cody Bellinger before Seiya Suzuki smacked a three-run homer. Jeff Hoffman then struck out Ian Happ and Christopher Morel before retiring Dansby Swanson on a line drive to right for his seventh save.

Michael Mercado (1-0) pitched two-hit ball over five innings to earn his first career win in his first major league start. And Hoffman closed it out for a Phillies team playing without injured sluggers Bryce Harper and Kyle Schwarber.

The Cubs have dropped seven of nine.

RANGERS 7, PADRES 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Nathaniel Lowe hit a pair of two-run homers, Nathan Eovaldi allowed one hit over seven innings and Texas beat San Diego to end their 11-game losing streak in the series.

Eovaldi (5-3) struck out six while retiring 21 of the 22 batters he faced. The right-hander threw 61 of his 92 pitches for strikes.

Jonathan Hernández gave up a hit over the final two innings to wrap up the Rangers' eighth shutout this season. San Diego, which had won nine of its previous 11 games, was held scoreless for the sixth time.

BREWERS 4, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP)—Willy Adames hit a tying sacrifice fly in the ninth inning, Rhys Hoskins was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to score the go-ahead run, and Milwaukee rallied past Colorado.

Brenton Doyle homered for the third time in two games and had an RBI double for the Rockies. Colorado left fielder Nolan Jones recorded another sizzling outfield assist with a 100.8 mph throw to the plate to deny the Brewers a run in the seventh inning and keep the game tied at 2-2.

In the ninth, the Brewers loaded the bases with one out against reliever Nick Mears (1-4), who allowed Adames' deep fly to center to even the score at 3-all. Mears re-loaded the bases with a walk and was replaced by Justin Lawrence, who threw a 3-2 pitch inside that clipped Hoskins on his upper body.

NL Central-leading Milwaukee had lost its previous six games at Colorado.

ATHLETICS 7, ANGELS 5

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Lawrence Butler and Brent Rooker hit home runs, Mitch Spence gave up one hit over 5 1/3 innings, and Oakland beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Brett Harris added a two-run double for Oakland, which had lost seven of its previous eight games and 17 of 21.

Nolan Schanuel had two hits and four RBIs for Los Angeles, which had won six of its previous seven games.

Butler and Rooker homered off Angels starter José Soriano in a four-run fourth inning.

Rooker's 16th homer came on an 0-2 knuckle curve Soriano left over the plate. Butler's opposite field shot barely grazed the left field foul pole.

Harris' two-run double in the sixth highlighted a three-run inning in which Oakland extended its lead to 7-1.

ORIOLES 2, MARINERS 0

SEATTLE (AP)—Grayson Rodriguez allowed just two hits over 6 1/3 shutout innings, and Anthony Santander drove in the go-ahead run with a fourth-inning RBI single as Baltimore beat.

Rodriguez (10-3) was dominant against Seattle's struggling offense, retiring the first eight batters of the game and allowing just one hit through five innings. The Orioles have won five of their last six games after dropping five in a row.

The Mariners threatened twice, but Rodriguez got an inning-ending double play off the bat of Jorge Polanco in the fourth inning and struck Cal Raleigh out in the sixth to escape both jams unscathed.

Josh Rojas had both hits for Seattle, with singles in the third and sixth innings.

RAYS 5, ROYALS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Zack Littell pitched five innings of four-hit ball before rain arrived, four Tampa Bay relievers allowed one run the rest of the way once play resumed, and the Rays beat beat Kansas City in a game that ended just after midnight Wednesday.

Brandon Lowe homered, Isaac Paredes drove in a pair of runs, and Richie Palacios had three hits, drove in a run and scored from third on a wild pitch by Brady Singer (4-5), the only run either team scored before the 2 1/2-hour delay.

Littell (3-5) completely flustered the Royals, wiggling out of one last jam just as thunder began to sound through Kauffman Stadium. MJ Melendez had hit a two-out pitch to right in the fifth and CJ Alexander followed with his first career big league hit, only for Littell to strike out Kyle Isbel and leave runners on the corners.

Sheets of rain began to fall moments after the teams walked off the field.

DODGERS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teoscar Hernández singled in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning for his third RBI of the game, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Arizona.

The Dodgers scored two runs with two outs to salvage a game in which they owned leads of 2-0 and 4-3.

Paul Sewald (0-1) struck out Gavin Lux and Shohei Ohtani before Will Smith doubled to center on a ball that caromed off the wall. Smith scored the tying run on Freddie Freeman's double to right, handing Sewald his first blown save in 12 chances this season.

Joc Pederson's solo shot on an 0-2 pitch from Evan Phillips (1-0) in the top of the ninth put Arizona ahead, 5-4.

The D-backs tied the game in the eighth. Gabriel Moreno walked and pinch-hitter Jake McCarthy followed with a bunt single to reliever Blake Treinen, who was slow to field the ball. Moreno scored the go-ahead run on Treinen's throwing error to second.

Saipan Int'l Fishing Tournament on July 13-14

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 13-14, 2024.

Game fish categories are: Grand Prize (Biggest Billfish), Bill Fish (1st -3rd), Yellow Fin (1st-3rd), Wahoo (1st-3rd), Mahi Mahi (1st-3rd), and Skipjack Tuna (1st-3rd). Prizes will also be awarded for total weight. A special prize of $10,000 will be awarded to the record-breaking bill fish weighing more than 942 lbs.

"The Saipan International Fishing Tournament is a weekend of camaraderie, as well as competition," said SFA president Tony Scragg. "Last year we has over 90 boats and close to 400 fishermen and fisherwomen, and this year, our 40th year of competition, we are looking forward to an even stronger turnout."

Tournament registration is $150 per boat, inclusive of a captain and one crew member. Each additional angler is $35. Registration will be held on July 12 from 4pm to 6pm at Smiling Cove Marina. A briefing on tournament regulations will be given, followed by a blessing over all boats.

Tournament time on July 13 and July 14 is from 6am to 6pm, and all boats must launch from Smiling Cove Marina.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit will again conduct courtesy boat safety inspections. Participants may contact the Boating Safety office at (670) 233-9120 or via email at Jcruz@dps.gov.mp to arrange for an appointment prior to event day.

Tournament sponsors are Marianas Visitors Authority, Mobil, Budweiser, Docomo Pacific, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Paradise Dental, Hawaiian Rock Products, Matson Navigation, Coca Cola/Foremost, Pacifica Insurance, Century Insurance, RNV Construction, Bridge Capital Investments, United Management International, JEM Mobile Stations, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods Store, Pacific Basin Insurance, and Tinian Shipping.

The SFA awards ceremony will be held on July 15 from 6pm to 10pm at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Banquet tickets are $35/person. Tournament entry forms, rules, and schedule of events are now available at Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods Store on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan or at www.sfacnmi.com.

As part of its fundraising efforts this year, SFA is also raffling off a Roland Johnson/Micronesian Marine 15-foot boat, engine, and trailer with free delivery to Tinian, Rota, or Guam. Raffle tickets are $100 and will be available for purchase by calling (670) 783-1472.

For more information about the tournament, contact Scragg at (670) 483-4597 or visit www.sfacnmi.com. ***(PR)***

SFA

Saipan Fishermen's Association receives sponsorship support from the Marianas Visitors Authority for the 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament set for July 13-14, 2024 in the waters off the Marianas.

Jones tops CWGA June tourney; Tudela wins SGA tilt

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Sherlyn Jones topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association's June monthly tourney last June 8 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The Marianas Health, LLC staff fired a net score of 83 to nip Lou Kim who finished with a net score of 84.

"In golf temperature, rain, wind, and humidity can always have effect on the game. But this day the weather was beautiful and this group of girls were all having fun not much of a competition. It's a matter of enjoying our time together so I dedicate this game to all our CWGA girls," said Jones.

Jones

The club continues to look for new members as the new season unfolds. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at (670) 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at (670) 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at (670) 783-7317.

The Saipan Golf Association, meanwhile, hailed Joe Sablan for topping the SGA 2024 May Ace of the Month Tournament last June 2 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west Course.

Alex Tudela actually had the best score of the tourney with his net 75, but since he already won in February his runner-up Sablan took the plum with his net 79. Jung Eun Teack got third place with his net 80.

Sablan now joins the 2024 Ace of the Month winners—Larry Deleon Guerrero (January), Tudela (February), Nick Sablan (March), and Das Krishnan (April).

In the closest to the pin competition, Freddie Cataluna was without peer on hole No. 3, while Tudela did the same on hole No. 7. Rene Batallones, meanwhile, won the longest drive on hole No. 5, while Tudela brought the lumber on hole No. 18.

SMASHES

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Cheng Chen, 4-21, 4-21.

In the singles matches, No. 2 Kuan Lin Kuo bested Edward Lau, 23-21, 21-13; No. 3 Riku Hatano lost to Cheng-Han Tsai, 21-17, 19-21; No. 4 Ryoma Muramoto beat Guam's Allen Zeng, 21-4, 21-2; No. 5 Justin Hoh won over Garret Tan, 21-8, 21-16; and No. 7 Yu Huang defeated Zong Han Lee, 21-8, 21-6.

In the doubles matchups, Demond Samin and Arena Samin won over Kai Cheng and Yu Wei Peng, 21-16, 21-16; Bo Rong Chu and Ruo Lin plowed through Cheng Yang Hu and Kristine Deng; and Yun Seong An and Hye Jeong Kim won in three tough sets over Yu-Che Chen and Yuan Chi Liao, 19-21, 21-7, 21-12.

Then, Tidaporn Kleebyeesun and Nattamon Laisuan fought tooth-and-nail in the three sets against Ruo Lin Tsai and Yi Zhen Wang, 21-17, 15-21, 23-21; Yen-Chen Ting and Yi Zhen Wang dominated NMI's Sernantie Jimenez and Shaina Malonzo, 21-4, 21-2; NMI's Dave Odicta and Genelyn Lansangan fell to Daisuke Sano and Sorano Yoshikawa, 1-21, 3-21; Yueh Lin Chan and Hsin En Hung brought down NMI's Jomari Azura and Trizian Canoza, 21-8, 21-7; and Guerrero and Ezekiel Macario lost to Yuto Noda and Kota Ogawa, 9-21, 2-21.

LEIGH GASES

Chinese Taipei's Hsin Tse Tu reaches for a return during his match against No. 1 seed Viren Nettasinghe in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In an interview with Nettasinghe after his match, he said, "I feel quite better compared to my last tournaments which didn't go too well. I think I feel well and prepared to play and overall just good."

With his tough second set in which he almost gave way for a tie-breaking third set, he said, "I saw my opponent wanting to quickly get points, so I slowed the game a bit which made him have a lot of unforced errors. That's how I got my points—from his mistakes."

When asked how his mindset is heading into his next matches after his debut win in the tourney, he said that he's feeling very positive and hopes he can do his best again today.

For Pangilinan, she said of her doubles match with Guerrero, "It was a really tough game. Me and Nate know what to do, but it was just really tough and honestly, now we know what we need to work on and how we can get better."

On the NMI's young team's run in the tourney, the player/coach said, "The tournament has been really great. Half of the team are juniors and half the team are U19. I'm very happy that they've pushed their hardest… and I'm glad they're having fun as well. With this experience, we're hoping that they can be like [these international players] one day. They don't just have to stop here—they can get better."

As another two international badminton tournaments are hosted by the CNMI this year, she said, "it's a great feeling to have it again. It gives us a lot of opportunities and also brings badminton out to the island. It also brings a lot of sports tourism to the island."

SWIM

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for the advancement of the sport.

When asked how NMI swim coaches heard of the course, Sikkel said, "WA and Oceania make an effort to offer courses and/or workshops for coaches or officials when we get together for bigger events like Oceania Champs, Micronesian Games, or World Champs. Since we are all there, they seized the opportunity to offer continuing education for coaches and officials."

On how this will benefit NMI swimmers and the program, he said, "Staying abreast with the latest changes and developments in swim coaching will allow the NMI Swimming Federation coaches to unlock NMI swimmers' full potential."

He added, one of the NMI Swimming Federation's goals for the 2024 season was to have more coaches highly qualified and certified through World Aquatics. "Having three more coaches with Level 2 credentials is a step in the right direction," said Sikkel.

CRUZ

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fecting my technique."

He added that he wants to keep his perfect streak as long as possible.

"I want to be as focused as possible no matter what and I would like to finish the races with a perfect score, but the last race of the season I will move up to Expert Class to challenge Shane 'Pikaboo' Alvarez," said Cruz.

He then thanked his parents for being "my day ones" and also his sponsors—Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value Hardware, Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) for the tent, Ericco Racing Team, MarPac, Marianas Native, Choke Chain Athletics, TurnKey Solutions, Winners Hardware, Pacific Line Construction, and Joeten Motors Co.

"I am very glad with my performance and I'm happy I put Team Yamaha up front!" he said.

In the Big Boy ATV Class of the Marianas Racing Association race, Christian Camacho also turned in a perfect 50 points. Henry Camacho Sr. was second with his 42 points, while Greg Clark was third with 22 points.

Results of the other classes of the June 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	54	31	.635	–
New York	54	33	.621	1
Boston	45	39	.536	8½
Tampa Bay	43	42	.506	11
Toronto	39	46	.459	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	53	30	.639	–
Minnesota	48	37	.565	6
Kansas City	47	40	.540	8
Detroit	38	47	.447	16
Chicago	24	63	.276	31
West Division				
Seattle	47	40	.540	–
Houston	43	42	.506	3
Texas	39	46	.459	7
Los Angeles	36	48	.429	9½
Oakland	31	56	.356	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	56	29	.659	–
Atlanta	46	37	.554	9
New York	42	41	.506	13
Washington	39	46	.459	17
Miami	30	55	.353	26
Central Division				
Milwaukee	51	35	.593	–
St. Louis	44	40	.524	6
Pittsburgh	40	44	.476	10
Cincinnati	40	45	.471	10½
Chicago	39	47	.453	12
West Division				
Los Angeles	53	33	.616	–
San Diego	46	43	.517	8½
San Francisco	42	44	.488	11
Arizona	41	44	.482	11½
Colorado	29	56	.341	23½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitchell agrees to $150.3M contract extension with Cavs

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No. 1 Nettasinghe smashes way thru Day 2

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No. 1 seed Viren Nettasinghe of Sri Lanka advanced to the next round after his first match on Day 2 in the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

He took on Chinese Taipei's Hsin Tse Tu and escaped in two straight sets, 21-7, 22-20. The 21-year-old who qualified for his first Olympic games—the 2024 Paris Olympics—breezed through the first set. Then, Tu put his game face on in the second in an effort to force a tie-breaker and give Nettasinghe a run for his money.

Tu had the advantage and controlled the pace of the second set with the first few points, but halfway through, Nettasinghe bounced back and switched the momentum to his side. Tu didn't back down though and the lead catapulted between the two until the end.

Then, at 20-all, Nettasinghe elicited an error at the net as Tu came up short to make it 21-20, then he solidified his first win of the tourney with an out-of-bounds return by Tu, 22-20.

LEIGH GASES

No. 1 seed, 21-year-old Viren Nettasinghe of Sri Lanka cocks back for a smash during the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

At press time, not all matches are finished.

Day 2 was a mix of doubles and singles matches, with the NMI's dynamic duo of Janelle Pangelinan and Nathan Guerrero's first chance on the courts. They took on Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara, but fell, 4-21, 3-21.

Then, the NMI's Paulo Quidato and Kyle Salcedo, who both advanced to the next round after winning their matches last Tuesday, faced their next challengers. Quidato took on Kwang Hee Heo and put up a fight, 10-21, 4-21. Then, Salcedo lost to Yu

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LEIGH GASES

The NMI's Paulo Quidato leaps for a smash during his singles match against South Korea's Kwang Hee Heo on Day 2 of the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024 yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

3 swim coaches complete Level 2 World Aquatics coaching course

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

NMI swim coaches that guided swimmers to their medal rush during the 10th Micronesian Games—Richard Sikkel, Christian Villacrusis, and David Roberto—found time to be more competent and certified after they completed the Level 2 World Aquatics coaching course.

While NMI national swimmers racked up medals left and right, the three coaches concurrently took and completed the five-day Coaches Certification course in the U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll from June 16 to June 20.

The course was led by instructor Haydn Belshaw, the Development Coordinator for Oceania. The certification is valid for four years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Swimming Federation coaches, from left, Richard Sikkel, David Roberto, and Christian Villacrusis all completed the five-day World Aquatics Coaches Certification course in the U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll from June 16 to June 20 during the 10th Micronesian Games.

According to the World Aquatics courses for coaches guidelines, the program serves as a pivotal component within the World Aquatics Development Programme, aiming not only to bolster the skills and competencies of Aquatics coaches globally but also to grant them the recognition of becoming World Aquatics certified coaches.

Also, the guidelines said, "Coaches are the guiding forces behind an athlete's journey, providing them with the knowledge, guidance, and motivation needed to excel in their sport. By offering aquatics coaches worldwide the chance to enhance their skills, the World Aquatics Coaches Certification programme not only invests in the growth of individual coaches but also contributes to the overall development of Aquatics standards on a global scale. Through rigorous training, up-to-date techniques, and exposure to best practices, certified coaches can effectively nurture athletes, helping them unlock their full potential."

The three objectives of the course are to promote sport's growth by offering continuous learning pathways for coaches; identify and develop necessary competencies for aquatics coaches; and develop and educate aquatics coaches

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Cruz so far perfect-perfect in the Intermediate Class

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aric Cruz in action in the Intermediate Class of the June 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Aric Cruz has not only swept the first five monthly races in the Intermediate Class, but also did so in dominating fashion as he's collecting 50s as if it's going out of style.

In the June 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi, the 17-year-old incoming senior at Saipan Southern High School again won both heats to take home the diadem. Last season's champion Vicente "Beng" Palacios was second with his 44 points, while Charles Cepeda was third with 20 points.

"It was a hot and dry race that caused a lot of crashing and flats. I would like to dedicate this race to my family and friends for their continued support throughout the ups and downs in my career."

He also made special mention of his uncle, Michael Mafnas, who recently passed away.

"I spoke to him before he passed and he told me that I can accomplish my dreams and I can be successful in this kind of career. He also told me not to stop racing and to keep moving forward no matter what," he said.

Asked what's his secret for racking up five consecutive 50 points so far, Cruz said, "I guess it's just the days of practicing and per-

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